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A

SKETCH

OF THE

HISTORY

OF

FRAMINGHAM,

SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN WRITTEN BY

ΟΥΔΕΙΣΕ,

While in Prison, aided in the obtaining of Documents,

BY HIS BROTHERS

NEMO AND AUCUN;

AUTHORS

OF A RESIDENCE IN THE SOUTH; AND, A TOUR THROUGH THE WEST.

FIAT JUSTITIA RUAT CŒLUM.

BOSTON:

PRINTED FOR THE PUBLISHER.

1827.

To the Reverend **JAMES FREEMAN**, D. D. Secretary of the Massachusetts Historical Society—the following SKETCH, without permission, is inscribed,

Very humbly and respectfully, by the

PUBLISHER.

INTRODUCTION.

The following sheets were accidentally discovered, buried in a heap of rubbish, in the corner of a cell; for several months previously occupied by an unfortunate debtor, who had there ended his days. They were, therefore, very naturally considered, the work of his pen; intended to alleviate the irksomeness of confinement, by employment, and the consequent amusement.

In the progress of what he terms his sketch, we perceive considerable inequality in the style. To use his favorite figure, alliteration, probably proceeding from frequent depression of spirits occasioned by the declining state of his health.

Respecting alliteration, as an apology for the deceased, the authority of some of our best poets, both ancient and modern, might be adduced.—But let Prior's "smooth surface of a summer's sea," suffice.

This figure is, in prose, what rhyme is in poetry. Our sublimest writers have only occasionally used it.

This, like the Hyblean honey, is exceedingly sweet; but must be used with moderation, otherwise it not only cloys, but in the end nauseates.

Respecting his *Johnsonian* pollysyllabical verbiage, we entertain not the same indulgence. The *frog*, that would be an *Ox* must be a fool. The sweetest fruit is least shaded with leaves.

Somewhat of quaintness is occasionally discovered, both in turn of thought and expression.

One thing we rejoice in being able to mention with unqualified praise; his constant reference to the wisdom and goodness of Divine Providence.

His introduction, though apparently not connected with the following subject, we think as much so, as the *feudal system* with Robertson's life of Charles V. or the history of the settlement of the North American States with the life of Washington.

Religion should be blended with all our actions, feelings and thoughts.

His observations, on the causes and manner, in which large Empires and States are discovered, and smaller communities formed, he undoubtedly intended only as connecting links down to the first inconsiderable corporation, whose progress and prosperity he wished to describe.

His Botanical remarks are too dry to be generally interesting. They are, however, free from technical phraseology, and of course from pedantry. Though he occasionally lets slip some term just to remind us of his being scientifically acquainted with his subject.

His insects and reptiles are amusing. The spider and toad, seem his favorites. If present, he would probably plead privilege of defending the weak and persecuted, and encourage the ingenius and enterprising.

His Geological observations, if correct, must be valuable.

That portion which he names Ecclesiastical, appears to us the most interesting, and every way the most important. The Clergy of New England are too respectable a body to be indiscriminately attacked. A real embassador from the Court of Heaven, should be received, with the respect, due to his Master. An impostor *ought to be* denounced, and excommunicated, and effectually prevented from meddling with a subject with which he is totally unacquainted. Where there is a true coin there is generally a counterfeit.

Towards Lawyers, he appears not to extend a very large portion of charity. He probably either was, or imagined himself, to have been cruelly treated by them.

Physicians too, of the old school, he treats rather cavalierly; calling them old women, whether petticoated or pantalooned. He probably had forgotten that his mother was an old woman.

The work, however, with all its imperfections, is now submitted to the mercy of a candid and indulgent public,

By their very humble servant,

THE PUBLISHER.

HISTORY OF FRAMINGHAM.

IN the *beginning*, says the Mosaic account, of the formation of this world, God created the heavens and the earth. We will, previous to proceeding to our main subject, suggest a few queries, for the reader's reflection. 1. What must we reasonably understand by *beginning*? Surely not the first time, when the Almighty Father of the Universe formed worlds, and arranged systems. Such an idea would be infinitely derogatory to his divine character. For if we should take a row of figures of the smallest possible dimension, that would reach from this earth to the most distant fixed star, and suppose the aforesaid series to express years, yea ages, this would carry us no nearer the beginning of eternity, than a cypher. 2. Can we even for a moment entertain the thought of a Being, infinitely wise, *intelligent* and *active*, remaining eternally *inactive*, making not the least display of his most important attributes, wisdom, power and goodness, wrapped up within himself, like a worm in a chrysalis state? Now this inevitably follows the supposition of his works ever having had a beginning. The word beginning, must therefore relate merely to the formation of the earth, at most that of the solar system. Every thing relative to the Deity, must necessarily be infinite; infinite in duration, having neither beginning nor end, infinite in extent, without bounds, infinite in variety as regards power, form, situation, &c. The moment God is conceived to exist, at the same instant, all his attributes are in action. As we cannot fix a time, when He did not exist, so we cannot find a time when his works did not exist. We may properly term him the infinite cause of infinite effect. To this cavillers will object, by saying, a cause must necessarily be antecedent to an effect. But this is merely a dispute about terms. We will therefore change the term for the eternal efflunence of God, necessary from the nature of his attributes. Taking up our infinite series then—On the throne of God, we find seated, in majesty unspeakable and inconceivable, our Blessed Savior, clothed, or rather inspired with the attributes of Deity; and so far, as possible, to accommodate our feeble, and every way imperfect understandings, styled the Son of God, first born, only begotten, though without the most distant analogy to the manner of continuing and preserving the human race. Imagination may range, though reason can never follow; from this Being, infinite by delegation; (for Jesus says, all power is committed into his hands,) down through animated matter, as far below the mite, as the mite is less than the Universe. [*a*]

In contemplating the foregoing subject, we are lost, confused, amazed and confounded. To finite reason it is not only unintelligible, but inscrutable.

We will therefore call home our *thoughts* and confine them to our own sphere, this little earth ; where we may discover sufficient for wonder and adoration, of our great all-wise Maker. [*b*]

Our all-kind and intelligent Maker, whether this were the Father, or as more generally believed, the Son, having provided a residence for his rational offspring, formed him in his own likeness, and animated him with a spark of Divinity ; when he breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and made him a living soul. All matter was animated for the accommodation and subserviency of his wants. He was commanded to multiply and people the earth. This command he cheerfully obeyed. But with the increase of numbers, was also a greater increase of wickedness. God therefore in his wisdom, always tempered with mercy, found it necessary to wash away the sins of the old world, by a flood. After the subsidence of the waters, Noah received the same injunction that was given to Adam, multiply and replenish the earth. Yet although rapidly multiplied, they emigrated not to distant parts. For, notwithstanding the solemn promise of their Almighty Father, they seemed actuated by the fear of another deluge. The project of building a large city, with an immensely lofty tower in the centre, would subserve two purposes. This tower, rising toward the heavens, high as human art, industry and perseverence could carry it, would be a landmark, to guide the distant wanderer, who otherwise might be lost, and bewildered, back to his home. It would also be a refuge and asylum, should the earth again be flooded. The carrying their design completely into effect, would have counteracted the designs of Divine Providence, by checking the progress of population. For if we may credit statistical writers on the subject, none of the great cities of Europe, London, Paris, &c. are supported, in population, by their own natural increase ; the number of deaths in them being annually much greater, than of births. Our five great American cities are probably under the same *predicament*. An influx from the neighboring country is necessary to prevent a decrease of the number of inhabitants. It was necessary they should be "scattered over the face of the whole earth." Empires and kingdoms arose. As these increased in power, and were extended, smaller states or governments sprang from them, owing either to ambition or dissentions, frequently both. Thus too in modern days, kingdoms are divided, distant provinces renounce their allegiance to the parent state, form a new community, and undertake their own government. The same principle prevails in the subdivision of *states* from a county, down to the most inconsiderable township or even parish. Ambitious spirits, who have no voice in the superintendence and control of public affairs, excite discontent, distrust, dissention and in the end disunion. They are thus enabled to obtain office and wield the sceptre of power.

In this manner *was* originated the *inconsiderable* township, a sketch of whose history we will attempt, for the benefit of some future, methodical digester, and arranger of facts.

This town is situated about twenty miles west of a large eastern metropolis, celebrated for its notions, political, religious and commercial. This

township was originally attached to the town south-easterly adjacent, by the name of Sherborn. A copy of the grant from public records runs thus:

"Framingham township grant, 1700. At a Great and General Court or Assembly, for his Majesty's Province of the Massachusetts Bay, in New-England, begun and held at Boston, on Wednesday, 29th May, 1700, in the twelfth year of his Majesty's reign, being convened by his Majesty's writ, upon a full hearing of the matter in difference between the town of Sherborn, and the inhabitants of the plantation of Framingham, containing all that tract of land formerly granted to Thomas D——th, Esq. next adjoining to Sherborn, upon the north and northerly.

Ordered that said plantation called Framingham, be from henceforth a township, retaining the name of Framingham, and have and enjoy all the privileges of a town according to law.

Saving unto Sherborn all the rights of land granted by the General Court to the first inhabitants, and those since purchased by exchange with the Indians of Natick, or otherwise, all the farms lying within the said township, according to former grants of this General Court.

I——c ADINGTON, *Sec'ry.*"

On the same day this grant was made by the legislature, a petition by mutual concert, was made by a large tract of land N. E. of the aforesaid Plantation, termed Sudbury Farms, to be annexed to the new township, which was readily granted. The new town thus became larger, and subsequently more respectable than either of its progenitors.

We will now offer a few observations on the natural history, and local advantages of this new township. In length, its extent from N. E. to S. W. is about seven miles, and its greatest breadth somewhat exceeding five. The surface can be denominated neither hilly nor plain. Nature when she operated here, must have indulged a very peaceful, placid mood. She undulated gently from one little eminence to another, without rising into rocky summits, or sinking into impassable morasses. Every acre is susceptible of cultivation. Even the most rugged hills from the bottom of the declivities, to their very tops, yield excellent pasturage. The lowest and wettest grounds may also easily be reclaimed, and rendered exceedingly fertile, by the art and industry of man. The sub-soil is generally gravel, in a few instances sand, and a still fewer, clay. In the hilly parts, digging for water, you come to a bed of granite, at from ten to twenty feet deep, in proportion as you recede from the top of the hill. The thickness of this rock is not known; it not having been found necessary to excavate many feet, before a plentiful supply of water gushes out. The soil on the high arable land, is gravelly, and generally arid, so much so, as in some instances to approach the sterile. Here the farmer has an opportunity of exhibiting his scientific acquirements, and practical skill in agriculture. Unmixed barn and stable manure, is in this soil nearly useless. Its strength or virtue is, on a hot surface, operated on by a burning sun, thrown by evaporation into the atmosphere, and scattered among the four winds of the heavens. It is necessary to mix the manure with a large proportion of vegetable mould or loam, term-

ed by modern cultivators, compost. Fields, annually dressed with this, are, in a moderate series of years, covered with a superstratum of fertile earth, and productive from their own resources, and no longer dependent on art for their fertility. On such land, this treatment is absolutely necessary to insure tolerable crops of grass.

The favorite grains, raised in this place, are rye and Indian corn. The first succeeds remarkably well, being better adapted to the soil, than to a moister and richer. In rich soils, the strength of the ground is wasted in the production of straw, to the injury of the grain. But for corn the richer the soil, with a due degree of heat, the better. More than medium crops of this, have been often raised, by much manure and great labor. No farmer here, wholly dependent on his farm for the necessaries of life, would consider his land properly seeded, without a few acres of this favorite vegetable.

On this he leans as his principal staff, for the support of both man and beast. It is useful for a variety of culinary purposes; more especially that dish, so savory to northern palates, *Hasty-Pudding*. This affords not an equal flavor and relish, when made of any other farinaceous substance. The reason is plain, this contains more saccharine matter, than any other grain. It is at the southward, termed flint-corn, and eagerly coveted by the distillers of whiskey. Yet, like the potatoe, when cultivated in a southern latitude, it invariably degenerates, and in a short period identifies itself in nature and habits, with the corn of that part of our country. Possibly many acres now devoted to Indian corn might, more profitably, and with less labor, be improved in the production of some other vegetable. But we are so accustomed to walk in the paths of our fathers, that we very reluctantly undertake new and unbeaten tracks. To insure success, a series of experiments are necessary to learn the habits of a plant, and consequently give it a proper soil and treatment. For want of perseverence in experiments, many valuable undertakings terminated in disappointment.

Among esculent roots, the potatoe stands next in value to Indian corn, as a necessary of life. The dryness of the soil, and heat of the sun during summer, prevent its yielding crops equal with those, that are protected and nurtured by the mists and fogs of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. Yet in goodness they are scarcely inferior, to those raised, in any part of the world. Most other roots are left to the charge of horticulture; being seldom found without the pale of the kitchen garden. Carrots having succeeded well in Europe, offer an ample field for experiment. The northern turnip, ruta-baga, being indigenous to places immediately bordering the polar regions, must degenerate, when transported into warm and dry countries. In the cool and moist lands of Great Britain and Ireland, it has been profitably cultivated; and here, in some soils, it may succeed. But we have too implicitly, let us observe, relied on English authorities for information respecting exotic plants; when frequently the treatment adopted, should be directly contrary to their directions. Adventurers are thus discouraged, and agricultural improvement retarded. Practical farmers, likewise, are induced to believe

all scientific directions, sneeringly termed book farming ; not only visionary and useless, but highly detrimental. We must learn to think for ourselves, judge, reason, and thus by our own observations, be able to *form* correct conclusions ; and not blindly use the eyes and brains of others.

Having cursorily mentioned some of the principal plants, which are fostered and nurtured by the art, and industry of man; we will now notice a few of the natural productions of the *ground*. Among the numerous species of oaks that flourish at the south, we can enumerate only six, the white, red, yellow, black, swamp, and dwarf or shrub oak, apparently a real incumbrance, and nuisance ; but by an all-wise Providence undoubtedly designed for some valuable purpose. Our oaks being like those in other places we think require not a particular description. The white oak, from its superior strength and durability, ranks first. This was formerly very plenty ; but its value and consequent demand occasions a scarcity. The propagation and preservation are objects highly worthy of the patronage of agricultural societies. The other oaks are some times used for boards and timber ; but mostly for fuel.

Next to the white oak in importance, comes the chesnut. This being quite porous and consequently perious, even when sheltered from the weather, to damp air, and therefore, while burning, produces such snapping forth of large sparks, as are highly dangerous, particularly to females clothed in slazy cotton.

Next *in order* comes the maple, unless we admit, that species, termed *accer sacherinus* in value and variety of uses, to compete for rank with the white oak. This in the southern and western states is termed sugar tree, here at the north sugar maple, of which there are two species, and several varieties. This with us is scarce, and while we have such ready access to the West India Islands, its value is not duly appreciated. But in the forests of Maine under the names of *curley*, and bird's eye maple, it accommodates the fanciful artist in cabinet *work*, with articles that *always* vie *with*, and often surpass the finest mahogany. The white maple is also valuable *with* cabinet makers, and a variety of other artisans. This flourishing best in moist land occupying large tracts of unembodied or unreclaimed swamp, and is readily procured.

The white ash, being a very light and elastic, though fragile wood, has an extensive demand.

The elm, of which there are many species on the continent, though only one remaining here, is not valuable for fuel. It affords light and substantial hubbs to our pleasure wagons and carriages. But as a tree of ornament and shade, it is justly considered the pride of the American forest.

The birch exhibits two species, each divided into several varieties. Of the yellow we have two, and of the white only one. The white species here is used only for fuel, though in Maine a variety of this is highly valued by the cabinet maker. With us, this tree, domesticated, and properly cultivated, would rival the exotic *weeping willow*. The boughs are equally pensile

and the leaves, by the slightest breeze excited into a tremulous motion, like those of the aspen, (populus tremulus.)

The aspen we take next, not because next in importance; but as associated with the birch by its tremulations. Formerly a variety of vessels, such as bowls, trays, &c. were made of this. Tin, with the same articles of ash, *has* nearly superseded them. When our mothers emulated our fathers in stature, and exalted their heels, at the expense of their toes, this tree was in high repute. But since *woman* has descended to her own sphere and become contented with the *height* to which God has raised her, this has become nearly useless. It would answer very well for the manufacture of children's toys being readily carved into any form, and susceptible of a deep stain.

Although we cannot attend to all our indigenous trees, we must not forget the wild cherry. This tree is every part of it valuable. The wood furnishes us with fuel and furniture, equalling in appearance and durability, the lighter kinds of mahogany. This is a mild aromatic tonic, and a good substitute for most of the South American barks. But its fruit is the most valuable part, being what botanists term a drupe, about one third of an inch in diameter, when produced by a tree in the woods; but in size, when domesticated proportionate to the judicious attention, paid to it by cultivation. This fruit infused in brandy, and properly diluted, is the most palatable cordial this country affords, being *mildly* astringent, *gently* tonic, and highly nutritive. Having thus cursorily examined some of the most important of our indigenous trees, we will now attend a few moments, to exotics.

The apple tree *is far* the most important of these: Should we undertake to investigate the diseases to which this is subject, and their remedies, the soil best adapted to it; the course to be adopted in selecting, or rather separating the good from the bad fruit, the grinding this, the expressing, fining and preserving the liquor, our sentences would swell into a treatise. We therefore confine ourselves to two observations. This is a hardy tree readily accommodating itself to any soil or situation, high or low, wet or dry. The fruit is not thus indifferent to localities. Both in strength and flavour, it is much affected by these. The judicious cultivation of the apple would yield us a *liquor* in wholesomeness and flavour surpassing any wine hitherto imported.

The peach next demands our attention. This tree is still more uncertain in its produce, than the apple. Could we compound with nature for fruit once in two years, we should be greatly the gainers, by the arrangement. We are situated one degree, at least, north of the latitude, where this spontaneously flourishes. The treatment here, and there, should be very different. There a southern exposure will produce earlier fruit; but here the bud prematurely swelling, and the blossom pushed forth becomes the prey of an untimely frost, or an eastern blight. Instead of treating it, as the fond mother does her darling son, guarding him against the cold north and chilling east, these should be the very aspects we give this tree, thus to naturalize, and render it sufficiently hardy for our climate.

We will now offer a few words on the pear. Here this has been nearly as much neglected as its relation, the thorn. Arising from the seeds promiscuously scattered from the tree; the fruit is generally too astringent, and acerb to tempt the appetite of man or beast. But, under the fostering hand of the skillful orchardist, it assumes an entirely new character. Grafting calls forth a very different progeny. From this is made a *liquor* scarcely known, except by name, in this place; which, for flavour, and gaseous liveliness, equals the briskest Champaign.

The plum, though formerly most of its varieties were common here, has degenerated; for though it generally blossoms, we seldom have fruit. The cause and a remedy would immediately be discovered by a *skillful* horticulturist; we therefore leave the subject for his investigation.

The cherry is, here, a greater favorite, than its intrinsic worth deserves; to make room for it, all trees merely ornamental about our houses, have been extirpated. The season of its fruit is very short, and the fruit not the most healthy. To the tender stomachs of children it is peculiarly fatal.

We will close the subject with a few observations on two exotic ornamental *trees*. The Lombardy poplar had its day, and twenty years ago was in such high repute, that any one to be considered a man of taste, must have a few set *about* his house. Alas! "Troga fuit;" and what Virgil considers designative of women is equally applicable to man. "Semper mutabile, &c. We are now extirpating it fast as possible, not for any crime, it has committed, not for any damage we have sustained, but solely owing to the fickleness of taste, and the unaccountable freaks of whim, and caprice. This tree is by no means fastidious in its choice of soils, and on those, that are tolerably fertile, its growth is exceedingly rapid.

The horse chesnut, or buck-eye of the west is just coming into fashion. This in the western forests is the earliest to exhibit its foilage. In height and horizontal extent, it is much less than the elm; thus enabling us to bring it nearer to our doors and windows. Its foilage is vastly denser, and consequently affords a more refreshing shade.

Of the pine, we have three *species*, white, yellow, and pitch, or Norway pine. The white pine may properly be denominated the queen of the American forest. With us this is scarce and greatly inferior in size to the same tree in Maine. Its uses are for masts, timber, boards and shingles. The yellow and pitch are common, and their uses well known.

The spruce and hemlock are thinly interspersed over the swampy grounds.

The locust is highly valuable in the construction of ships, and as fencing posts, defying both water and worms. The most important reason for its being taken into favor here, is the reputation it has acquired of enriching the land, on which it grows. Though this, by the ignorant and unreflecting may be considered, as mere prejudice unfounded in reason, and uncountenanced by nature; yet, let us give it an impartial examination. Not having viewed the leaf either chemically or even microscopically, we shall proceed with great reserve, and deference to the opinions of others. Both

botonists and naturalists say that plants receive their nourishment from the atmosphere. The bed of earth in which we place them, serves merely to give them firm footing and also as a laboratory for the preparation of nutriment to be through little strainers or hair-like roots, conveyed to every part of the tree. But while the roots are thus labouring; we must not suppose the leaves inactive. By expiration, they throw out all injurious and useless matter, during the day, and in the night, absorb what is congenial and nutritive. This is not the wild vagary of a visionary theorist; but an opinion tested by experiments, and established by facts. The different portions of oxigen, absorbed by different species of trees, occasions the different shades of their foilage. All trees contribute in different proportions, to the fertility of the ground where they are located. Wood land when cleared for tillage, we find (*ceteris paribus*) richer, than old fields, that have long lain fallow. The locust leaf probably by its peculiar organization, instead of dissipating, and thus wasting in the atmosphere, its collected stock of nutriment, retains and carries it to the earth.

The hickory is an exceedingly tough strong coarse grained wood, but invariably warps in the sun—its fruit is not surpassed, if equalled, by any thing of the kind imported.

The butter-nut or oil nut, is also an indigenous tree and affords us the finest pickle in the country, and the nut when ripe very much resembles the English walnut, not in shape but flavor.

Of shrubs or bushes too that deserve our attention,is the myrtle, or bayberry bush, yielding a very valuable green wax. This though formerly common, has now nearly disappeared, under the peasants scythe, and given place to grass for the herd.

The fate of the whortleberry bush has been less severe. For, though it has been persecuted and destroyed in the open fields, or pastures, it has found an asylum beneath the trees of the neighbouring woods; affording sustenance to an innumerable multitude of birds, and harmless, healthy, and very agreeable amusement to children. This berry is highly nutritive, gently tonic, and in large quantities mildly laxative. When eaten by children, even to satiety, *this* is perfectly harmless; what we can say of few other fruits. To an unvitiated palate, this is preferable to the imported raisin, or current, and certainly vastly more wholesome. We appreciate not its value because so *accessible* and *common*.

It is proper, we observe, casting a frowning look toward foreign climes, we request they would send us none of their lemons, limes or even crabbs, while we enjoy in such abundance the most palatable acid Heaven ever formed, the *cranberry*.

This place has been very bountifully and tastefully watered, if this last term be correctly applicable to dame nature. A stream with water sufficient to move in any part of it, such wheels as are usually constructed for grist mills, justly termed a large rivulet, or small river, meanders longitudinally from the S. West to the N. East extremity; over a bed of such moderate

descent as causes a pleasantly flowing current, neither rapid, nor sluggish. In a few places the passage of the water is considerably accelerated.

By the wisdom and goodness of Providence, this usually occurs, where the high grounds approximate even to the verge of the water; thus inviting the construction of dams for propelling every kind of machinery. These scites, however, considering the length of the stream, are not numerous. But this deprivation is amply compensated by the rich and beautiful meadows, which skirt the borders of this stream, nearly its whole course; to the farmer invaluable, perhaps indispensable. These are throughout interspersed with a vast variety of flowers, that shoot up in their season, offering to the eye of the botanist, a fascinating prospect. These are little regarded by the farmer, who considers only the luxuriant crop of grass, that spontaneously arises after the annual irrigation of the river. Mowing and carting into the barn is the only labor, required of the proprietor, for the river has kindly performed the office of manuring; and as cattle are not usually suffered to range here, fencing is unnecessary. Each man's lot is designated by stakes, if not separated by a brook, or some other natural boundary.

This *stream* during its passage, at proper spaces, receives the tribute of several rivulets; which are also bordered by meadows, but of less value, not being annually completely overflowed.

Several brooks also, during winter and spring disembogue themselves into this, with the decayed vegetable matter, and slime, that has accumulated on their beds, during summer, when they are dry.

The principal stream with its branches would probably in case of a severe drought be laid bare to their beds by evaporation, in other words, atmospheric absorption; had not a kind Creator wisely provided a remedy, preventing this evil, by numerous little springs in the bed of the river, vastly colder than the running water. This too is wisely ordered to preserve the temperature of the now sluggishly flowing stream, sufficiently cool for its inhabitants, the fish. The resort of little trout to these, first excited attention, and discovered the cause.

Southeast of this river nearly parallel stretches a chain of large ponds. Some of these were formerly connected. Alluvial accretion from appearances has now entirely separated them. These all have an outlet for the discharge of superfluous water, except one, which is surrounded by high land. The largest of these, situated at the eastern extremity of the town, and of magnitude sufficient to entitle it to the name of lake, discharges water sufficient to support a manufacturing establishment and gristmill. These sheets of water, in number 6, are pleasant, and healthy resorts for parties of pleasure; all of them abounding in a variety of fish and tortoise.

Of grasses in repute, we have said nothing. Herds grass and clover are highest in estimation. St. foin and lucern have not yet attracted the attention of our farmers. A most invaluable kind of grass, flourishing in the irrigated meadows, well known by the names of fowl meadow grass, instead of gaining ground, appears rather on the decrease. This probably arises from the

seed not receiving proper attention. The practice in some towns is mowing it alternately in the blossom, and in seed. The first makes the best hay. But a portion of it should certainly remain for the seed to ripen. Without such precaution, this highly estimable grass will finally fail and disappear.

Another thing we could suggest, as an improvement; the construction of *low dams*, at proper distances, not to interfere with water privileges, to be used in time of floods to increase and continue their beneficial effect; narrow shallow ditches, also, to conduct the water on to those higher parts, where it seldom reaches, readily distinguished by their meagre appearance.

Having now ranged over the surface of the ground, and cursorily examined those *objects that* arrested our attention, we will descend into the bosom of the earth, and try our fortune there at discovery.

Through most parts of this town, are distributed, so as to accommodate the whole, peat bogs or swamps; which, when wood fails, will afford an inexhaustable *source* of fuel.

Most of the rocks here are granite. Some portions of this are strongly tinctured with iron. Of this are manufactured our best mill-stones. Fragments of amosphous quarts are common. But slate and sand stone, if they exist here, have not yet appeared.

Clay is not common, though a few beds of it have been discovered, how extensive, and how valuable for making brick, having never been opened, is not yet known. Some of these are strongly impregnated with iron.

This last mineral is very common, though not worked at present. We will observe, *en passant*, that Divine Providence has, very wisely and kindly distributed iron throughout all the *countries* of the earth, while the precious metals he has given with a sparing hand, generally too concealed them deep beneath the surface, and rendered them accessible only to severe labour and perseverance. Iron is an indispensible article in *civilized life*. In fact a knowledge of the various uses of this metal constitutes the difference between social and savage life. This is often wrought into instruments, or tools or parts of the same that will command more than their weight in gold.

Giving up our researches beneath the earth, we return, and resume our *desultory* ramble on the surface.

Quitting vegetable life, let us spend a few moments in the examination of animated nature; and from insects and reptiles ascend to "the *human face divine*."

Our insects are probably the same, nearly, with those of other countries, under the same latitude and at the same distance from the ocean. For both these must be consulted, when we would ascertain the temperature of the climate. True, we have no spiders sufficiently sturdy to prey on birds, like those of South America. Nor have we any ants, so powerful and voracious as to carry off a quarter of beef in the course of a night, as do those of Africa. Still from ours, little and apparently contemptible, as they seem, we may take lessons of industry, economy, and perseverance highly worthy of imitation.

All other insects we pass by, to enjoy a momentary inspection of that accurate geometer, accomplished architect, skillful projector, and occasionally the aeronaut, measure her lines, ascertain the number of degrees of the various angles, scrutinize the texture of her net; how admirably adapted to the purpose intended? 'Tis *the work of God*, through the agency of his irrational offspring. Instinct, therefore, within its very contracted sphere, surpasses our so much vaunted reason. But let us remember, instinct is finite; reason infinite.

We mention two facts, respecting this insect, perhaps not generally known. Like the serpent and fish, she preys on her own species: Every thing caught in her toils, that she can master, she devours.

When the time, that her progeny should see light, she bursts asunder, yields up her own life, and leaves behind myriads of successors. Were there a large proportion of them suffered to attain maturity, they would prove a plague more grievous than any that Pharoah suffered. Providence has wisely provided against this, by making them the prey of their own species; other insects, and of birds.

We proceed now to reptiles. As we pass on, let us, for a moment, pause, and pay our respects to that wrongfully persecuted, oppressed, and by women and children, shamefully abused little *innocent—the toad*. The little child, while his judgment is unprejudiced, and his taste unsophisticated, picks this up, and bears it on the palm of his hand, or in his bosom, to his mother, expecting her admiration, of the beauty of his newly acquired plaything. How then must he be surprised, and mortified, at the salutation of "you dirty little blockhead, throw away that nasty, ugly poisonous toad. Here let me kill him." As an excuse for this hatred of a harmless creature, we are told, his form is uncomely, his gait awkward, and the colour of his skin disgusting. Here we again see the wisdom of Divine Providence. We make no apology for so often refering to this. It is the foundation of our resignation, comfort, and consolation in the present life, likewise of our faith and hope in a future one.

The form of this useful little animal is admirably adapted to its mode of life and habits. Scooping out a little cave egg shaped, and in dimensions corresponding precisely with his own bulk, he is safely stowed away, the whole surface of his body coming in contact with the interior of his domicile, in other words exactly filling it, he securely enjoys during the sultry hours of a summer's day, refreshing coolness. In proportion as you render his form less compact, and his legs more extensive, you disqualify him for his present station, and mode of existence. He is not, however, sluggish, and stupid. Let a fly or bug pass by him within the scope of his powers; the most skillful sportsman is not surer of bringing down the woodcock, that passes within the range of his fowling-piece; than this little apparently clumsy fellow is of seizing his game. He neither jumps, leaps, nor bounds; but quick as light darts at his object. Respecting beauty, we merely observe, no belle, in our land, can display handsomer eyes. True they exhibit not the pene-

trating scrutinizing shrewd, sagacious glance of the serpent. On the contrary they are mild, and placid and serene.

But what can we say of his hag-like wrinkled hide. We say, viewed through a magnifier, 'tis very beautiful. But whether so or not; this is the only defence, Heaven has given him, against his natural enemy, the snake, making him somewhat resemble the ground; but much more a decayed chip, fragment of wood, moss, &c. and thus causing his being mistaken for these. On the contrary, the brilliancy of the serpent's colours occasion his being readily seen and often avoided. Ah, but his poison! With due deference, and respect for the venerable motherhood, we merely say this never existed, except in the brain of an old woman. (*d*) The economy of nature is, where she has given for defence a sack of virus; to provide also for its conveyance, or expulsion. Now the toad never bites, nor even spits. He makes no kind of defence, when attacked, nor tries to escape, only on the approach of his inexorably ravenous devourer.

But now let us view him as our benefactor. He approaches man with confidence, and even seeks an asylum beneath his threshold. Here he finds security from his subtle foe; and here his game is most plenty. Reposing during the day, at night he sallies forth, destroying, wherever found, a host of marauders, bugs, flies, &c, that commit unremitted depredation on our tender vines and fruit trees. In the morning he returns, without injuring even a blade of grass, to his humble retreat. There he reposes, till the next evening, unless called forth by a shower, of which he is very fond. Let us, then, discarding all prejudice, treat this perfectly harmless and even useful animal, as a friend and benefactor.

Now we will look at his enemy. We must approach him with caution, and he will view us with suspicion. If he doubt his ability to cope with us, instead of a precipitate flight, he sets one eye as a sentinel on our motion, and with the other reconnoitres the ground for a retreat. A small tuft of grass, or a few leaves suffice for his hiding place. Whether Eve imparted to him the aptitude of leaves to screen from observation, in return for his instruction on the lusciousness of the apple, is uncertain. However, a very small portion of what were necessary to hide her shame, is sufficient for his concealment. The brandishing of his forked tongue, is only parleying for a truce, and, like the boisterous threats of a coward, always indicative of fear. When wounded, his *dernier resort* is feigning himself dead, and afterwards decamping.

In this place we have only seven species. The rattle, black, striped, garter house, or milk-adder, green and little brown, black water snake, or black viper.

Of the rattle snake in North America we have five species, great diamond backed zig-zag size, backed little speckled and dwarf or bastard rattle snake. Of these we are troubled only with the little speckled. What few remains of these harbor in the deep crevices of our granite ledges, and are seldom seen and more seldom arrive to maturity. The appearance of the reptile creature

ranging through his native wilds, with scales, burnished by a burning sun, the yellow thus rendered truly golden, figured with jetty black, and the whole interspersed with delicately shaded purple, equalling the Tyrian-dye, would be inexpressibly beautiful, were not the idea of danger and even death, inseparably associated; which instantly change the beautiful into the sublime, the delightful into the horrible. From the skin of this awful creature, during summer, is exhaled an aroma, in fragrance, vying with the far famed otto of roses. All these striking qualities are destroyed by confinement. The colours fade away, the aroma is gone, and even the fierceness lost.

The black snake surpasses all his kind, in strength and fleetness. He is in hot weather a real racer.

The black speckled bellied water snake is rather clumsy on land; bu very active in the water, and an expert fisherman.

The striped or garter snake is generally found in open pastures and fields, and is exceedingly prolific, producing at once from eighty to one hundred; being oviparous at the time of the eggs hatching, she receives them through the mouth into the maw, where they have free ingress and egress, till they are large enough to take care of themselves. At the approach of danger, by some signal, she collects them, swallows, and bears them to a place of security. Why they are not digested like other food in the same situation, is an unaccountable economy in their nature, that renders the gastric juice perfectly harmless to them. The serpent therefore on devouring his own species, always kills, before he swallows. With other animals this is indifferent. Serpents are swallowed and grow in the human stomach. (*e.*)

The house adder has the reputation of milking our cows and sheep. It is often found in our cellars and barns.

The green snake is a little harmless creature, when full grown, about twelve or fourteen inches long, too small to prey on any thing larger, than flies and grasshoppers.

The little brown, and black, with a red belly, and ring round his neck, are mere dwarfs, scarcely bigger than earth worms.

One curious fact, respecting serpents, is, that although fighting, and devouring each other during summer, they indiscriminately crowd together, on the approach of winter; and early in the spring, hundreds of all species, belonging to the climate, have been taken out, twined together like the strands of a rope.

Of the tortoise, we have four species, little black, yellow, spotted, little aligator backed, dusky backed, and a great snapping mud tortoise. All these are edible, but only the last highly valuable.

The two smaller species are exceedingly coy, and seldom quit the banks. On the alarm of danger, either by sight or sound, they look *cautiously* around, and plunge into the water, but immediately reappear, *cautiously* raising the head above the surface, and thoroughly reconnoitring, and if the danger has not disappeared, again replunging, and shortly again the head reappearing; reminding us of our lasses of the last century; when it was customary at the sound of hoofs, or the sight of a passing stranger, for each

miss in the house to run to the sides of the window, and project her head and breast forward to examine the stranger's appearance, and pretentions; and the moment his attention seemed attracted, dodged aside, hoping in the language of Virgil, they were not undiscovered; but to ascertain this point beyond a doubt, immediately returning to the charge, but finding themselves the objects of more earnest scrutiny, again retreated. This is probably a relic of manners formed during Indian wars, when our forefathers resided in stockaded forts, where the utmost caution was proper in approaching the ports and loop holes of a block house; where Indian arrows would, not only extinguish an eye, but destroy life.

We now notice the leviathan of our ponds, the great mud tortoise, afraid of nothing, and ready to fight with every thing. He seizes, and obstinately gripes it, even a burning coal. He is esteemed by epicures, inferior in size only to the tropical tortoise.

Fish present themselves next to our consideration. Our ponds afford us five species, beside the eel; pickerel, perch, chafin, roach and a dwarf cat fish, here called pout. All these are excellent pan fish. Suckers and shiners are unworthy of enumeration. The pickerel is among fish, what the hawk is among birds, devouring every thing, he can catch. The perch is a sweet close grained fish. The roach or ruff also, is sweet, but small and bony. Our ponds and streams abound so much in fish as to render them the favorite resort of the neighboring towns, and the metropolis, in parties of pleasure. Our cool brooks were formerly well stocked with trout. These have nearly all been drawn forth by skilful anglers. Formerly alewives in abundance ascended into our ponds to deposite their spawn, and were a source of revenue to the town. Now, by the improper construction of dams below, they are entirely stopped.

For the amusement of the fowler, we have a few snipes and wood-cocks, considerably many partridges, and numerous flocks of quails. Among our songsters, we consider robin red-breast entitled to our first notice. He is our benefactor in the removal of worms and insects from our trees and grounds, and while praising his Maker, regales us with the morning and evening song. The orchard he considers his home; though his social disposition and confidence in man, would attract him near to houses. But he is thence driven away by the wanton sport of the thoughtless unfeeling boys. The Baltimore oriel, here known under the name of hanging-bird, also courts the friendship and protection of man, being much attached to the elm as a residence, the pendent boughs offering a secure situation for his nest. His notes are few, shrill, and sonorous, but clear, melodious and exhilirating. If his voice lack in compass, that is abundantly compensated by the beauty of his plumage.

The blue bird too, the harbinger of spring, being among the first, that make their appearance, and the very first, whose song is heard proclaiming the approach of the bud, the blossom, leaf and fruit, after nature having been so long enfolded in the icy arms of winter, is listened to by the unsophisticated, artless ear of youth with rapturous emotion. His notes are not pierc-

ngs ; but mild and soothing. 'Tis their novelty, that constitutes half their charm, like the *first fruits of the season*, and indeed our first acquaintance with almost every gratification in this life.

The martin and the swallow belonging to the same genus, place themselves, still more nearly, under the protection of man. Neither the hoarse chattering of the former, not the soft twittering of the latter, though very social, can be considered musical. However they are our benefactors, subsisting on the insect tribe, and *capturing this*, while on the wing, never preying on our vegetables, and seldom descending to the ground, though often washing themselves in our streams and ponds. Such being their habits, they are not much annoyed by the mischievous sports of our children.

Let us now examine some of the songsters of our groves. There we shall find the red thrush, and the blue thrush, vulgarly called mavis, and cat bird ; the latter from the resemblance of his every day note to the cry of the cat. This last too somewhat resembles the mocking bird in imitating and improving the notes of other birds. The mavis is also a sweet songster.

If we repair to our brook meadows, our ears will be greeted by the whistling of the red winged black bird, (the same with the English starling) and the warbling of the bobolinkhorn. Both the males of these are black. The first ornamented with a bright scarlet spot on each wing, like an epaulette ; the last variegated with bright yellow. The females, on the contrary, by a wise provision of Divine Providence, are clad in dirty grey, nearly of the color of which their nests are constructed. Did they exhibit the same t rdy plumage with their mates, their nests being built in a tuft or clump of grass, they would become a conspicuous prey to their enemies, both above and below. Their modest appearance, is their only security during the time of incubation.

We must with a sweeping clause conclude our observations on birds. We have the silver notes of the lark to rouse us in the morning, but he is unsocial. We have the yellow bird in plumage, surpassing in sweetness of note, certainly equalling the imported canary. We have crows, though no ravens, except transient visiters. The crow is a very sagacious bird, and hesitates not to attack the hawk, though single handed, he is no match for him ; but by a well known signal, he calls to his aid the whole black fraternity, and divests his more industrious neighbor of his hard earned property. The jay is a wag among birds, and like all wags more mischievous than useful. He imitates the voices of other birds, not to improve his own, but to jeer and ridicule them. He is the first by a peculiar scream or outcry, to proclaim the approach of danger, and is among the first to repel the *approach* of the crow, hawk, or even a more powerful enemy.

Of hawks we have, as constant residents, two species, the great hen hawk, and sparrowhawk. Occasionally a species of kite visit us, commonly, when that gregarious, migratory bird, the pigeon finds subsistence in our woods.

We have only two species of the owl, constantly resident, the little *screech*, and great *hoot-too*.

Passing over the numerous kinds of hopping, skipping, jumping little an-

mals, such as the weazel, squirrel, &c. we will make a few observations on our domestic animals.

Of the herd, the noblest of quadrupeds, we have nothing to boast above our neighbors. Nor can our neat cattle much distinguish us in the weight of beef, butter, or cheese produced. The leanness of their pastures forbids it. Sheep have been tried, and for the same reason, proved an unprofitable speculation. Goats were a great convenience here for the first half century after the incorporation of this town, while it was an object to subdue wild lands, and destroy every unprotected green thing. But when wild food failed, there ingenious *climbers* conceived they were entitled to support from the labors of their masters. Accordingly all fruit trees and ornamented shrubs, soon resembled the stump of Dagon. Goats were of course discarded.

Our skill in rearing swine, we believe is not surpassed by any of our neighbors. We are not ashamed to exhibit them, even in the *Charlestown* market.

Deer, bears, and wolves have long since disappeared. The fox, only has not been thrust out; like some of the Canaanites, being too cunning to quit the land of his nativity.

We will now try to ascend to the connecting link between this earth and her great and all-wise Maker. In other words, trace the progress of the human mind from the dawn of civilization to its present polished state, *civil history* divided into religious, social and political.

The first object, of our pious ancestors, after obtaining a charter of incorporation from the colonial legislature, was finding a pious young man, instructed rightly to divide the word, as a teacher and pastor, to lead his flock in green pastures, beside fresh streams. No one so nearly united all hearts as Rev. J. S——t, of Milton. He was accordingly the first minister of the first christian church in F————m, and ordained 8th Oct. 1701, and died 7th April, 1745, aged 67.

Let us take a cursory view of the temper or religious feelings of those times.

The Salem delusion had measurably subsided; though many pious, well meaning souls, if they had any meaning at all, still doubted, whether Satan had not more power and authority in this world, than their Almighty Maker; and accordingly daily, and fervently prayed that the Lord would take the regulation of his own affairs, and particularly the government of his rational offspring into his own hands. In those days, the dogmas of Calvin were in greater repute, than the precepts of the apostles; and for St. Paul's milk of the word, was administered Calvanism, more corrosive than Sulphuric acid. Wo betide the luckless wight, who then dared question the divinity of Christ, and doubted, whether he were indefinitely and absolutely God, intrinsically possessing all authority and all power. In those pious times, every old woman, whether petticoated, or pantalooned, was a shrewd casuist, an able polemic, and learned divine. The strong hold of the Genevan doctrine, was mystery. The above mentioned old ladies were its most

strenuous advocates; and seemed to reason as follows:—"Were the gospel a series of truths, addressed to the understanding, human reason would never reject it; for being understood, it would receive immediate and unqualified assent. However, this is not the case. We are in no instance called on to understand; but to believe. "Great is the mystery of godliness, says the apostle; and we add, the greater this mystery, the greater the faith required to command our assent to the same. Let this mystery involve absurdity and the faith to receive it must be supernatural. "Cred, quia impossible est." We are treading on enchanted ground, we therefore retreat.

The church in F————m, when first organized, consisted of the following members:—

Henry Rice,*	Caleb Bridges,
Daniel Rice, Deacon,	Thomas Mellen,
Jonathan Hemenway, do.	Benjamin Nurse,
Thomas Drury,	Samuel Winch,
Thomas Walker,	Thomas Frost,
John Stow,	John Haven,
Simon Mellen,	Isaac Bowen,
Peter Cloise,	Stephen Jennings,
Benjamin Bridges,	Nathaniel Haven.

The following is the covenant or bond of union between the members of the foregoing church.

We do under a soul-humbling, and abasing sense of our utter unworthiness, of so great and high a privilege, as God is graciously putting into our hands. Accept of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for our God in Covenant with us, and do give up ourselves and our seed, according to the terms of the everlasting Covenant, to be his, under most sacred and inviolable bonds. Promising by his grace (without which we can do nothing) that we will walk together in a Ch--h state, as becomes Saints, according to the Rules of his holy word, submitting ourselves and seed unto the Government of the Lord Jesus Christ as King of his Church (afterwards it was added) *and to the watch of this church*, managing ourselves toward God and man, all in civil and sacred authority, as those ought, who are under the teachings of God's holy word and Spirit. Alike declaring it to be our Resolution, that we will, in all things, wherein we may feel short of duty, wait upon God for pardoning mercy and grace in and through our Dear Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

To persons on their admission into the ch—h, it was said, "And we, the church of Christ in this place, do promise to carry it toward you, as a ch—h of Christ ought, to its particular members, according to the rule of God's holy word. This we do promise in and through our Dear Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever."

The above written was copied from a paper drawn by Rev. Mr. Swift, sometime before his death. Attest Matthew Bridge.

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*Henry Rice, in the church records, appears dashed with a pen, implying, we suppose, his modestly declining the office of deacon.

And it appears, that for above forty years, the Rev. Mr. Swift disciplined his church consistent with the abovementioned covenant as became a wise, faithful, religious and prudent pastor, and departed this life (much lamented) April 7th, 1745.

The above is all that appears on the church records for 45 years; and omnivorous time has destroyed nearly every vestige of traditionary information. All we can now learn is, that having built on an elevated scite a house sufficiently capacious for public worship, and a habitation for their minister, not only comfortable and convenient, but for those days elegant; the people continued to be harmoniously edified during the whole period of the ministration. No jars, no feuds, no schisms occurred, to disturb the peaceful current of his labors.

But no sublunary bliss is perfect. Though all his flock seemed implicitly led by his counsels; yet he sorely experienced the truths of the scripture adage, "whom the Lord loveth, him he chasteneth." The little ewe lamb that slept on his bosom was a source of unceasing disquiet. Not from a wayward temper, nor any other natural imperfection. 'Twas the work of Heaven. She was mentally deranged. The good shepherd of the flock, therefore, found it necessary to construct a new fold, distantly situated from his domicile, whither he could retire, and enjoy sweet communion with Heaven and prepare gospel meat, to be given unto each in due season; peaceably listen to the wants, and feelings of the tender lambs, without distraction, or interruption. The scite of this Study was near that of his public meeting house, on the banks of the meandering stream, we have described in size about that of Jordan, when not unflooded.

If we judge him by the few occasional discourses, which he published, we should pronounce him a plain practical Divine; not over anxious to inculcate, what in modern days is termed orthodoxy. Indeed this was then unnecessary; for Christianity was Calvinism, and Calvinism, only, Christianity.

Immediately beneath where formerly arose his pulpit now rest his ashes. A large slab of slate, resting on a brick foundation covers his grave, on which is inscribed the following

EPITAPH:

Hic jacet
Qui obiit 1745, aprilis 24 to.
Æt. anno 67
Vir ille reverendus D. JOANAES SWIFT,
Dotibus & nativis & acquisitis ornatus.
Docendi artifeæ, exemplar vivendi.
Felix dum vixit
Mores exhibens secundum divinas regulas
Episcopo necessarios.
Commiscens prudentians serpentis Collumba.
Innocentiam

Commertium cum es habentibus
In vita percharus,
Atque gratam sui, etsi mœstam memoriam
Post mortem relinquens.
"Qui per vanos casus, & variaque rerum discrimina"
Atque usguead mortem,
Raram discretionem, modestiam, patientiam
Voluntatique Supreoni Numenis submisionem
Spectandem prebeus.
Jam tandem in Do requievit
Adoptionem
Scibuet corporis obruti redemplisnem
Eenpectabundus.

We now enter a field barren of incident, yielding nothing instructive, curious or amusing; much resembling an African desart. We mean social history, concerning only private character, and domestic occurrence. Undoubtedly many little smothered discontents, and cautiously concealed jealousies, ultimately resulting in animosity and discord, existed in those long *since* forgotten times.

For the same disposition has constantly appeared in woman, varied by circumstance, ever since she had more confidence in the word of the gorgeously tinsel-clad serpent, than that of her husband, and fancied the former of the two, vastly the finer gentleman. Man also has varied little from the character, which he assumed, or rather to which he submitted, or descended, or was, by infernal art, subjected.

When he incautiously, and probably unconsciously, cast off the livery of his Maker, which was perfect innocence and purity; and covered his nakedness with the fig leaves of his mate, when he chose rather to lie down in darkness and despair with an accomplished woman, than to be associated with the choir of his Maker, in the regions of truth, light and ineffable bliss; when earth quaked and all nature groaned, for God's best work was marred, his image defaced. From his hands woman was perfect, exhibiting every charm, soothing, conciliating, and comforting, yea, encourageing to the heart of man. But remodelled by the arch enemy—what a sad piece of work! The most beautiful Angel of Heaven is transformed into a hag of the heath. God's last and best work was adorned with such a multitude of graces, as would require the life of man, fully to discover and appreciate. But by Satanic art the interior of this admirable structure has been sadly rifled. Where once were smiles and caresses, now are found only frowns and reproaches.

All those rancorous feelings have long since subsided, and their remembrance perished. The assailer and assailed, the aggressor and aggrieved lie down together in the dust, and all their animosities have ceased.

We now return from our digression, to the laborious task of gleaning after the sickle of time the few remaining interesting facts.

After their incorporation the first object that engrossed the attention of

the good Frammites was finishing the house of public worship, which they had previously erected; preparing a suitable habitation and arable land for the use of their highly esteemed, and truly beloved pastor.

The influence and authority of a christian minister, in the early days of New-England, were somewhat patriarchal. The people looked up to him for counsel in difficulty and his advice was received with deference and respect almost reverential. Many disputes were thus settled, quarrels prevented, and harmony in society preserved.

The interior of their meeting house, as such edifice was then termed, in distinction from Romish and Episcopal churches, was thus constructed. A pulpit rising moderately, compared with the height of most modern congregational desks, was very plainly finished, on the north side of the house, which in form was an oblong square, extending longitudinally east and west. From the south door, usually much the widest, directly in front, and running to the pulpit, was the main or central aisle. On each side, and perpendicular to this, were rudely constructed plank benches with only a stout oaken joice to support the shoulders, and prevent the erect from falling backwards. These seats were without partition, (so that each occupant sat immediately contiguous to his neighbor,) and extended over what was then called the body of the house, leaving on each side a small space for an aisle, or as then rustically named alley; and beyond that, immediately adjacent to the walls of the house, sufficient room for constructing pews. For several reasons, an eastern and western door were also *formed*. Principally in imitation of Solomon's Temple. Porticos, and even porches were entirely out of the question, being too expensive appurtenances. On all sides of the house, except the north, in the second story, were constructed seats, rising in regular gradation like those of an amphitheatre, and extending over about half of the area of the floor beneath. This minuteness was thought necessary, because it represents not only the house, under consideration, but nearly every other erected for a similar purpose, more than half a century previous. The house being thus far finished, at the expense of the town, those, who for the purpose of having their families all seated together, petitioned for liberty to build pews in such situation as suited their families. If agreeable to the sense of the town, it was granted by vote in town meeting. Those, who were destitute of pews, were annually seated by a committee chosen for that purpose, usually the selectmen. By vote in town meeting the first year, it was left optional with the committee to seat the freeholders, either according to age, or the rate paid. On the right hand of the venerable Pastor, while offering the bread of life to his flock, and holding forth to them the conditions and requisitions of the everlasting gospel, were seated according to weight of character, exhibited either in piety, property, age, not debased by vice, and unwearied plodding or delving usefulness, the freeholders of the town, venerable age and past services, appeared in front, and according to this principle, receded back to those benches that were filled only with names.

Corresponding with the seats of their husbands opposite, and on the left

hand, rows of healthy, clean and neatly attired females, whose gently inclined figures, motionless attitude, or posture, downcast eyes, and unvaried features exhibited the most beautiful sight in the world. They were not an assembly of vain and frivolous women, collected to display their charms and attract the other sex, but the daughters of Zion met, deeply impressed with the solemnity of the occasion, to worship their God.

In the galleries were seated the children of the foregoing and strangers. The front seats, however, were occupied by men of family, and those awfully dreaded scourges of levity tythingmen. Wo to the wicked wight, who dared brave the authority of the guardian of public morals. The resounding mace, bounding from oaken plank, bespoke the attention of all, and followed by a scowling face and frowning eye, with finger, spider like, thrust in rapid vibration toward the trembling culprit, denounced public scorn, and endless reprobation.

Our wonderfully pious ancestors scrupulously adhered to the letter of the law, and so rigidly enforced the injunctions of the fourth commandment, that liberal catholics, and English churchmen, accused them of worshipping the *day*, instead of the God, who instituted the Sabbath. Be this as it may, the indulgence of cheerfulness was reprobated, as a violation of the sanctity of the day. Whistling was very wicked, and singing, unless in the incomparably elegant paraphrase of Sternhold and Hopkins, was shocking to every ear under the government of a sanctified heart.—Every thing assumed a sombre hue, a depressing, a heart-chilling aspect. The elastic bounding step of childhood, what is now deemed peculiarly characteristic of youthful innocence and simplicity, was then sternly, and indignantly repressed as indicative of a heedless disposition, unimpressed with the solemnity and sacredness of the day. This was here termed Lord's Day. It is, however, as we have sketched it, without exaggeration, an old fashioned New-England Sabbath.

Let us cast a retrospective look, and take a slight survey of those simple, we would say innocent, were we not under the necessity of adding superstitious, and shockingly bigotted times. Necessity then, enforced industry, for the acquisition of their daily bread, meat and clothing. Prudence suggested economy in the construction of buildings, and expenditures for conveniences. Inclinations, the offspring of habit, dictated frugality in the consumption at the homely board, of those provisions, hardly acquired, by constant sweat of the brow.

Their *food* compared with modern *diet* was simple, light and nutritive.—During summer they could afford little meat, but from the neighboring brook drew plenty of fish. Milk, butter and cheese, their pastures being only partially subdued, were frugally expended. The aromatic astringent weed of China, and the bean of Arabia, then were scarcely known.

Instead of an infusion of these, during winter, when the udder of the cow ceased to be distended with milk, a cheap, palatable and nutritious substitute was thus prepared; into the pot-liquor, in which corned beef and pork had been boiled for dinner, was thrown a few handfuls of beans, and boiled

till perfectly soft, when a small portion of ground maize, or Indian meal, was stirred in, moderately to thicken it. This pottage was well known, and highly esteemed under the name of *Beanporridge*. This served for the ensuing supper, and breakfast of the family.

Strong water, so termed, from its magical effects, *by the children in the woods*, well known, in these degenerate days under the appellation of Ardent Spirits, was then little understood, and less used. Ah! how happy would have been our lot, had we remained ignorant of the art of manufacturing our own misery; the art of torturing God's creatures, and by force extracting from them a language they were never intended to speak; the art of turning by fermentation and distillation every sweet into bitter, and thus rendering a land flowing with milk and honey, in reality a land of drunkenness and debauchery.

With a sigh, we throw aside the pencil of declamation and oersume the sober style of history.

The good Framinghamites, were not free from trouble though intently engaged in their own particular business, and meddled not with their neighbor's concerns. But this secured them not from the officious interference of meddlesome neighbors, who having nothing of consequence of their own, wished to know what their neighbors were doing.

Framingham thought little of any thing except, drawing closer the cords of amity and liberal feeling, and cementing together every part of the new fabric. She gave sixty pounds a year to her beloved Pastor, and five years after raised it to seventy. This sum in the present extravagant days might support a lamb; but would hardly keep together the soul and body of its shepherd.

Such was the patriarchal character of the venerable preacher of the gospel, in those days, that, in the eyes and ears of his hearers, nothing was too good for him; his corn must be first planted, and his garden first weeded. Every thing must be done to enable him to attend without distraction to his parochial duties. Not only his wants were supplied, but even his wishes anticipated.

While Framingham was thus engaged in organizing her church affairs, and temporal concerns, rejoicing in the prevalence of internal harmony and prosperity, Dame Sherborn assuming the stately airs and matron-like attitude of mother, insisted on the respect due from a daughter. She demanded of those of her household, who had settled in the territory now constituting the fairest portion of Framingham, the same contributions, as from the rest of her family. These exactions they determined to resist, and accordingly applied to Framingham for countenance and support. The Framinghamites very correctly decided in town meeting to assume the responsibility, make common cause with the aggrieved; and for this purpose chose a committee to obtain legal information on the subject.

Sherborn also had her counsel. The course pointed out for her, was very obvious. She would sustain no injury from levying taxes on the inhabitants of Framingham. If they submitted to the encroachment, a precedent

would be established, and give her a legal claim. If prompt and vigorous opposition appeared, it would only result, ultimately in receding from the ground assumed, and relinquishing their contested rights. The colonial statute incorporating the township expressly guaranteed to the citizens of Sherborn, and other neighboring towns, all their privileges and immunities from previous grants; in a word confirmed the right of soil, while it alienated that of jurisdiction. The contest without recourse to legal process, whatever chagrin it might occasion to jurists, was at last settled to the mutual satisfaction of the parties.

But though thus freed from impending trouble, she was not destined to be always quiet. For during the years 1717, 1718, she supported a warmly contested suit with Weston, respecting the maintenance of a pauper, one Margaret Allen Wells, known in those days, under the familiar appellation of Peggy; who, the Framinhamites contended, of right belonged to Weston, tho' sojourning in Framingham. Weston maintained the reverse. After expending so much as would have maintained the unfortunate girl, during her miserable pilgrimage on earth, in legal counsel, and producing equal damage to Weston and *saddling* on her the final expense of support—the Framinhamites sat down, and counted too late the cost, but not contented. The award of the Court was that Peggy should be supported in Framingham, but F. be remunerated by Weston. The account was by Framingham presented, and by Weston protested. Framingham again seriously deliberated on a renewal of the lawsuit. The poor girl was too much exhausted by sickness for removal. After being bandied to and fro, the unfortunate young woman might well exclaim, I have neither father, nor mother, ye, step mothers, who are so unwilling to give me a little milk and water. I shall soon cease to trouble you—I shall soon go to your Father and my Father; where will be peace, and lasting repose. She shortly sunk under that cruel, lingering complaint, the consumption. When danger of expense ceased, animosity ceased, and harmony was restored.

However, the good Framinhamites were not by this weaned from their fondness of law. Joseph B———r, much the richest, and most influential man at the time, when this town was incorporated, tradition informs us, was for twenty years engaged in a legal contest with the heirs of Danforth. A tract of several thousand acres of land had been purchased by the aforesaid B. of Danforth.

A large portion of the grant to D. was by him given to the town as a common, to accommodate the inhabitants with timber, fuel and pasturage. Each one had a right to cut down such trees, as suited his purpose, and if removed within a limited time after being felled were exclusively his property. This common land being situated in a fertile part of the town, and consequently being more valuable, was by mutual consent of the proprietor and town exchanged for a differently situated tract. Some informality in the proceedings and encroachments on the common land occasioned a long series of law-suits, in which B———r was deeply involved.

If we may credit the accounts of those now verging in age on four score

and ten years, the following description would be truly characteristic of the above personage.

In height he rose considerably above the common statue, though well proportioned. His limbs were neatly, and firmly articulated. His muscles in size and vigor approached what might be termed Herculean. With head erect and features regular, the general aspect of his countenance indicated dignity, accompanied with a deeply penetrating shrewdness. Indeed, this, instead of being mild and complacent rather bordered on the severe; that unchangeableness of feature and inflexibility of muscle, which proclaims authority and commands respect. He was more noted for vigor of understanding, than suavity of manners, much more feared than loved. This character applied to the branch of his posterity, resident here, must be reversed. Though not deficient in the powers of the head, they have been more distinguished by the virtues of the heart.

The females to the various advantages of mental energy added the benefit of an early intercourse with the world, a confident, easy, graceful address. Elizabeth of England and Catharine of Russia were their models, preferably to Jane Seymour, or *Esther the queen.* Being consequently independent in sentiment, and acknowledging no other tribunal, than conscience; provided this acquitted, they smiled at public opinion. They have been mostly respectably, and what is more, happily married.

The branch of this family, that emigrated, was highly distinguished, by a succession of eminent Divines. Rutland, Portsmouth, (N. H.) and even Boston are loud in their praise.

Joseph S. B——r, by his enemies, was deemed a dangerous innovator; but, by his friends, a restorer of forgotten truths, a reviver of real religion; and by his enthusiastic admirers a model of pulpit eloquence.

We will merely say, that while here, he shone with the splendor of a large comet, and quickly disappeared; possibly engaged in the same office, in the moral world, which that performs in the natural; connecting and preserving the harmony of distant systems.

The primogenitor of the foregoing was also a man of valor, and long previous to the formation of this town, had constructed a fort for defence against the savages, who were then exceedingly troublesome. To discover the scite of that, at the present day, requires the eye of a military engineer, for no traces of it remain. The old Colonel, as he was always, in his latter days styled, was the agent usually employed by the town in cases of difficulty and danger, to obviate unnecessary expense, and conciliate the affection of neighboring corporations. This was not however of his own seeking; for he was too proud to ask a favor of any man; but from his reputation for superior talents, and address. He represented the town nearly thirty years, not however uninterruptedly, for he was repeatedly superceded during a year or two, by some more popular character.

We have been thus particular in our biographical sketch of this man, because his name is no less intimately connected with the early history of this

place, than that of Washington with that of the American confederation. He departed this life in [see epitaph,] aged 81 years.

In 1725 the town began to be interested and agitated respecting the rebuilding, and the removal of the meeting house to a place, "nearly central, as should be found convenient." This was not immediately effected, nor at last without much animosity and contention.

The North was arrayed against the South; and those near the centre took side according to whim, fancy or interest. Timber was procured, a frame constructed, and preparations made for raising the same. But so great was now the excitement, that the timber was secretly either removed and concealed, or rendered useless by breaking of *tennons*, and otherwise defacing it.

At a subsequent town meeting, motions for removing, rebuilding, and lastly repairing the old house were successively negatived, and the subject by vote indefinitely postponed.

The Rev. Mr. Swift's salary had been gradually raised to 100 pounds, and this in 1730 found inadequate to his comfortable support. An exertion was unsuccessfully made in town meeting to raise this by a grant; but all that could be obtained was a vote to add to it by contribution.

Down to this period, little change had been effected in the manners of society. Luxury had made, comparatively, no progress in the work of corruption. Every thing was strongly marked with simplicity. A thousand conveniences, *now* deemed indispensable, were then unknown. The one horse chaise, now in some shape or other, accommodating nearly every family in the place, was not then in use. The saddle and pillion afforded *seats* for the aged and infirm; the youthful and vigorous had not then lost the use of their legs. Instead, therefore, of the coach or chaise house of modern days, then conspicuously appeared, the *Horse Block*.

Regularly, as the the day returned on each Sabbath morn, Dobbin was led forth from the stable, and being duly accoutred, *Sir* first mounted and riding to the horse block, *Mam* gravely seated herself behind him, forward was placed little *Josh*, supported by *Sir's* left arm, *Mam's* lap received Betty, and behind all, was seated *Molly*, supporting and steadying herself with the crupper.

The party thus prepared, with downcast eye and solemn face, slowly ambled toward the public meeting house. But the voice of nature could not always be stifled in the children. Their attention would be attracted, by the beautifully variegated scenery beside the way; which always called forth a gentle reproof from their parents; who, to withdraw their wandering affections, from the vanities of this life, reminded them of the awful place, to which they were going. It was "none other than the house of God, and the gate of heaven." They must look not to the right hand, nor to the left, but only down, and straight forward.

The New England, or *puritanical sabbath*, was, here, in those days, strictly and rigidly observed. To sketch *all* its features, and give them an accurate delineation, would be an arduous task. We content ourselves

with an outline. The contour of the figure will suffice. 'Twas a day of terror to every volatile, fluctuating, vagrant disposition. Nature was robed in sable, and all around was sombre and gloomy. "The sons and daughters of music were brought low." Even the birds scarcely dared to sing; however eloquently they might plead privilege, or insist on caroling the praises of their Maker. The lowing of the heifer, little acquainted with her own wants, but in reality desirous of a companion, was a sure indication that the Lord had forsaken the house, and if not a legion, at least one devil had possessed the herd. The death-like silence, and absence of every thing human abroad, denoted more respect for the fourth commandment of Moses, than knowledge of the precepts of Jesus; more attachment to Jewish customs, than acquaintance with the examples of Christ By the sad looks of the women, you would believe they were like the idolatrous Sidonians, rather mourning the death of Adonis, than rejoicing at the resurrection and ascention of our Saviour.

The inhabitants of this town were very liberal in their exertions to procure proper instruction for their children. Immediately after their incorporation, they employed for several years, a schoolmaster, with a salary of forty pounds per annum, Edward Goddard Esq. who subsequently distinguished himself in some of the most responsible offices; being frequently selectman and moderator, for a long series of years town clerk, and for several years representative in the General Court.

After keeping the school here in a place nearly central a few years, it was deemed preferable to district the town, and have, what was then termed, a travelling school. Six districts were, in town meeting established, and the places of instruction designated. The schoolmaster took them in rotation, tarrying in each a specified time according to its wealth and population.

This arrangement was also attended with some inconveniences. The larger scholars, particularly boys, during winter from every part of the town, flocked, in such numbers to the little cold inconvenient private apartments, assigned as school rooms, that the younger children received comparatively no benefit. It was further observed, that the smallest children would be more injured in their health by waddling through the snow and then sitting in a cold room, than ben fitted from any instruction whatever. Further, it was urged they learnt nothing themselves, and barred all others from improvement.

Giving due consideration to these reports; in town meeting it was voted, that, in future, the school should travel during summer, and remain stationary at the centre, during winter.

By this arrangement, both great and small were accommodated—the little children engrossed the attention of the master during the season, when their elder brothers and sisters were engaged in the business of the farms. In winter the sturdy hinds of the woods could at all times, on their rackets or snow-shoes, readily gain access to the central school house, which was large and accommodating.

The books used at first, were only the Psalter, Testament, and sometimes

the Bible. True in latter days, Dilworth's Schoolmaster, sirnamed Thomas, in his highly improved spelling book, taught us how to divide words; but alas! it was most gothically done; for, when he had once torn syllables apart, and separated letters joined by natural affinity, it puzzled the little urchins to unite them again. Added to the foregoing, some bungling treatise, *in favor* of an itinerant mendicant school master, an Arithmetic, completed the list of school books.

Indulging our curiosity by visiting the dwelling house of the farmer, to examine its lore, or literary acquisitions, we must enter the kitchen; for, in those days, they had no *parlour*, this word being of French origin, from the word *Parler*, to talk, and adopted by English ladies for the convenience of drinking tea and talking scandal.

Well then, as we are in an old fashioned Framingham kitchen, let us reconnoitre. If the season be winter the first attractive object is a deep, and vastly broad fire place, in extent 10 by 4 feet, two thirds of this was occupied by a fire, well supplied with fuel, and the remainder accommodated with an oaken bench, or form, on which usually were seated the smaller children; sometimes sharply contending for precedency, each striving to get near as possible to the sooty back.

Neat in *attractive splendency*, and orderly arrangement, appeared the brilliant "*Dresser*," with the great two feet diametered Pewter Platter, its associates gradually diminishing down to a six incher, and ending with earthen pans and neatly turned wooden trenchers.

In another corner and near a window might be seen a shelf, too high to be molested by the curiosity of mischievous children, on which was arranged the family library. Here the Holy Scriptures could always be found, accompanied, often with the Pilgrim's Progress; frequently with some pious treatise on Popish persecution, always remembering, to forget the tragic fate of Servetus. Willard's Body of Divinity, being a *revealer* of many truths, of which Moses, who first presented the tables, being ignorant, was carefully placed in contact with the Old and New Testaments; and considered much better authority, than either. Next came scraps from R. Baxter. Particularly, *Last Words* of Mr. Baxter.

If we are not to be hooted for the expression, we will say, among the more liberal, the works of D. DeFoe were seen, and poor Robinson Crusoe not only amused, but really edified the heart of many a real *unsophisticated* christian.

At this corner, of which we are now speaking, the father of the family *on every solemn occasion*, was wont to be seated. Thence were fervently and honestly breathed forth his pious aspirations to Heaven.

In those days it was not considered fanatical nor hypocritical to pray in one's family. Thence the morning and evening sacrifice, of prayer and supplication, thanksgiving and praise were statedly offered.

Having taken a cursory view of the manners and religious feelings of private professors, during the olden times, let us indulge a glance at the discourses from the Sacred Desk, during the same period. Whether learned

or not, ingenious or clumsy in their construction, we find them highly seasoned with scraps of Greek and Latin, a condiment, indispensable to render them palatable.

Only one sermon, from the pen of the Rev. Mr Swift, has met our eye. It was an Election sermon, preached at Boston before the Great and General Assembly of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, in New England, May 31st, 1732.

His text was Luke xiii. 9, "And if it bear fruit, *well*; and if not, *then* after that, thou shalt cut it down."

His introduction is stately, plainly indicating his consciousness of being in the presence of an honourable and very erudite assembly.

His division is learned, elaborate and judicious. The doctrines inferred are formally and numerically stated, accurately investigated, and enforced.

Popery was at that time a legitimate object of attack, for every whipster, and consequently the old gentleman was justified in his sly thrusts at her. His Καν νεντροίμσμζλαρ πον and Maculæ Solares, at the present time, would probably be condsidered Maculæ Lunares.*

We will now spend a few moments in the examination of medical practice during our old fashioned times.

Though no MEAD was then at the head of his profession, to dictate rational practice, yet every neighborhood was thronged with *Meads* soliciting a trial of their art. Having ransacked the animal and vegetable kingdoms, and thence plundered a farago, for their magic cauldron, by them considered a panacea, they confidently promised the restoration of life, and the renewal of youth. They were wonderfully skilled in *potions, philters, charms* and *nostrums*.

From a multitude of these prescriptions, we select a few as characteristic of their entire system. (*f.*)

Recipe for removing freckles, restoring beauty, preserving youth, &c. &c.

May dew brushed from the white rose, at midnight, is an infallible obliterator of freckles, softener and smoother of the skin, and beautifier of the complexion.

Having spoken of the white rose, let us now descant on the virtues of the *black bullock*. Remember there must not be a single white hair found about him, otherwise the prescription is useless.

Take the heart of an entirely black bullock, previously five years old, boil it in water completely freed from every species of mineral, dry, and grate it into some broth that has never had any connexion with fat, in such portions, as the patient can bear. Whoever takes this, fasting, if afflicted with a nervous disorder, whether hypochondria, dyspepsia, or even indolence, would infallibly be restored to his station and duties in society.

Intermittent fevers vulgarly termed fever and ague was by the following summary process *expelled from the system*. Catch a large, hungry, yet very plump and fat spider, be very careful not to kill him, wrap him in his

* *Indications of Lunacy.*

web, and to prevent his escape, daub the web with honey. Whoever will swallow this cannot but choose to be well.

All inflammatory or acute diseases were thus treated. Internal or general affections of the system were sweated to death—when the patient could no longer breathe, all present were satisfied the disease was subdued. External or local complaints required something specific. Nothing was found by the venerable dames, more efficacious, than, what we find ourselves at a loss to describe. We must again mount our stilts to get through it. Delicate reader, thou wilt pardon us, when we describe it, as the posterior ejection of a three years old red heifer.

This recently from bowels, that would have painfully retained the same, applied as a poultice, assuaged all *pain*, allayed all inflamation, and reduced every swelling. It was an anodyme, it was an emolient, it was a sovereign balm for every external complaint ; Witchcraft, and snake bites excepted.

Witchcraft, could be subdued only by a Medean preparation originating from a black cat baked alive in a brick oven.

To cure drunkenness, take a live snake and drown him in spirit and let the patient drink copiously of the same. To preserve the teeth from decay, a black snake exactly six feet in length was necessary. He must be seized alive, and bitten through in three places, so completely as to break his back. This, his squirming, and the bristling of his scales against the lips, to the contrary notwithstanding, would ensure the soundness and beauty of the teeth for life.

All cases of parturation were exclusively under the direction, and control of these female majicians. This was certainly correct ; provided, they were by a suitable education prepared for their highly important, and honorable calling. But when they adopted, as their ruling maxim, " whatever thy hands find to do, do it with all thy might." More than one life was often endangered. [*See Appendix, H.*]

This town if we may credit her records was remarkably fond of law, but suspicious of lawyers. For no jurist could here find permanent rest for his feet, before 1792.

The business which has since so copiously fallen into their hands, was erst performed by magistrates termed justices of the peace ; in former days great characters, now merely lawyer's tools ; where lawyers themselves cannot engross the whole business.

The pandects of Justinian were not, by these honorable gentleman, often consulted ; for their very existence was unknown. With the names of Grotius and Puffendorf they were not acquainted, nor ever attempted for the benfit of precedent, reading an Anglo-Norman report. However, they were deeply versed in the Mosaic code, alias *Lex talionis* and this, with a few colonial statutes, furnished all their legal authority. Lawyers coming into vogue, have now very kindly relieved these *gowned* distributers of justice, from their onerous commissions by taking the responsibility and profit on themselves.

The good people here, after contending for ten years, about the location

of their meeting house, and always undoing at every succeeding, what had been done, at the preceding meeting, finally worn out, and disgusted with the obstinacy of clashing interests, sat down, and took breath. The result of this deliberation was their counting the cost of everlasting contention, and duly estimating mutual concession. Accordingly, after what would, at sea, have been considered a dead calm; they were excited to a resolution, to which they steadily and firmly adhered, of locating their house on a barren pine plain, looking, as all public houses then did, to the south so low, as to suffer the inconveniences of a deep morrass on the right, and a cold inhospitable swamp on the left. It was far inferior to the old scite, which they had deserted, which was elevated, airy, healthy, and pleasant; while the one chosen, was low, gloomy and unhealthy. But it was the nearest central of any spot, on which they could build. This central location, too, was the touch-stone, agreed on to banish discord, and restore harmony, and friendship to a jealous neighborhood. The talisman however failed, so true is it, that when we wish to quarrel, we may always find a cause of difference. A new l one of contention was discovered, a sharp contest ensued, and has continued, even to the present day.

A House for the worship of our Almighty Father was constructed based on a parallelogram of forty eight by fifty five feet, and what it lacked of horizontal extent was compensated by perpendicular elevation. The interior was never defiled by any kind of paint whatever; and the exterior was ultimately and clumsily daubed with a coarse dusky olive pigment.

It was three stories high, or had (otherwise expressed) two tiers of galleries.

The same principle was adopted in the disposal of the pew privileges, and body seats as that which regulated the old house, except, that those who were authorized to construct pews adjacent to the walls of the house were *enjoined* to finish the inside of the same by double boarding high as the bottom of the windows, and thence lathing and plastering, high as the first girth, also keeping the same together with the windows there situated, in repair, under the penalty, on failure, of forfeiting the pews.

Pews were subsequently *extended*, over a large portion, of the ground floor, *what was then called the body* of the house, and round the walls of the galleries.

They had *now* completed, what was considered, in former days, a very handsome and commodious Meeting House. True they had not the convenience of either portico or porch; the doors opening immediately on the area of the building. But they had a house of public worship, calculated for a large and populous town, and in form according to the fashion of the times.

All seemed satisfied, and the fiend of discord was supposed to be quieted. But she could neither sleep, nor even slumber, till she had re-organized, and called forth her discontented, restless, factious spirits, into action.

Opportunity for this was shortly presented. Their Pastor the Rev. J. Swift dying in April, 1745. No occasion could have been more opportune,

than the settlement of a successor. For what would please one, would assuredly displease many others.

The church having given a decided call to Rev. William Vinal, *afterwards* of school-keeping celebrity in Boston; the town was on the 25th of June, 1745, assembled for the purpose of ascertaining their minds. It was then voted to concur with the church in their call of said Vinal to the Gospel Ministery, and a committee chosen to inform him of the same. The meeting having been adjourned to the next day, the opposition rallying, obtained a vote not to grant any money for his support; thus nullifying the proceedings of their *opponents*.

Their next attempt to settle a minister succeeded. Accordingly, Rev. Matthew Bridge, on the 2d of December following, received an invitation to the pastoral charge of their church; not however without much opposition. They voted him two hundred and sixty pounds, (old tenor) salary, and six hundred pounds (old tenor) settlement, as also fuel; which he hesitatingly accepted.

Here commences a new *era* in the history of this town.

Beneath the embers of open animosity, discord and strife, lay, partially smothered, secret heart-burnings, *private* grudges, and unextinguishable envyings, needing only the slightest breath to excite them into a flame.

The settlement of Mr. Bridge, was the *torcin* to the disaffected, discontented growlers, who had constantly sought occasion of disturbing, and confounding all council. His preaching to them was not edifying. It was cold, formal, and insipid. They wanted something, warming, animating, rousing, and that was imbued with the real unction of the christian gospel. How was it possible, said they, that a sermon prepared like a school boy's lesson, and read with doubt and hesitation, could be productive of confirmation, and real edification. Were not all the disciples of our meek and truly humble Saviour, directed to take no thought respecting the defence, they should make of their Master and his kingdom; for it should be given them, what they should say, as occasion required. If too they trusted the words of Jesus, they should remember, that he would be with them, even unto the end of the world.

The reply to this was, if the argument proved any thing, it proved too much; for if we were not carefully, coolly, and deliberately to discuss the doctrines of the Holy Scriptures; but trust for information to the inspiration of the moment, and revelations with which none but ourselves could be acquainted, what need of those scriptures. Our inspirations would abrogate the New Testament, as that did the Old.

By way of rejoinder, much was said of him, "who was born of G. having the witness within himself," &c. On one hand, it was urged, that the Grace of God, shed abroad in the hearts of all men, was sufficient for their salvation, without further light, otherwise the scriptures were given in vain. On the other it was suggested, that though God's grace was every where visible, his sun shining on the evil, and the good, and rain descending on the just, and the unjust. His sacred will as divulged in the Holy Scriptures,

was *truly* beyond all calculation estimable. But this was to the carnal mind a dead letter. For we are told in the 2d chapter of the 1st Epistle to the Corinthians, that the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God, &c. It was consequently plain, although we had the letter, we had not the spirit, and new light on the subject was necessary, to be vouchsafed by God, at such times and in such measure as his infinite wisdom dictated. This at the present day is denominated special Grace. But at the time we are now considering, was called *new light*, and those who received it, were named, rather ambiguously *new lights*. This appellation, though probably cast at them, as a reproach, they joy fully assumed, as a distinctive mark of their superior sanctity, and favor with Heaven.

The dispute usually terminated in *logomachy*, not reasoning, and certainly not conviction.

A very respectable minority thought it their duty to recede from the church, with whom they were associated. The language of Scripture was, "come out from among them, lest ye be also consumed."

They were accordingly associated as the second Congregational Church in Framingham, and strove hard, in the colonial legislature, to obtain their proportion raised by the town, of funds for the support of the gospel, but without success. They had as a town and church agreed to support Rev. M. Bridge for their minister. A small portion of them now came forward, and asked to be discharged from their covenant engagements, and to be indulged with the privilege of a new parish. If such indulgence were granted, it would establish a dangerous precedent. There might be in that little town, as many religious societies, as *are* now formed in the state. The daughter might set her face against her mother, and every family exhibit no fewer sects than individuals. Such was the language of the General Court.

The petitioners retired murmuring, that it was hard they could not be allowed to worship God, according to their own consciences, which they could not do, if they must support not only their own minister, but that of their neighbors, whom they could not and would not hear. They would, however, suffer for concience sake. Rev. Solomon Reed, was ordained 1747, who had charge of them, a pious, and undoubtedly consciencious follower of the Lamb, was not so remarkable for his stature, as for the bold stand he took against formality, and, as he termed it, every species of hypocracy. His natural powers were good, and his natural acquirements respectable. His fervency and zeal in the cause of his Great Master, were unquestionably laudable. But, alas! to warm and enlighten the hearts of men, and to make them follow that light are very different things. Many who had joined him, repented, confessing their error, and returned to their first love.

The society for years, struggled with difficulty, and encountered dangers, appalling. These dangers were not of everlasting punishment; for they were well assured against that, by one in whom they implicitly trusted. Yet, while the soul, or Spirit, was luxuriously nourished, the body was in dan-

ger of starvation. A divorce, therefore of the Church, was indispensible from their beloved Paster.

The Anabaptists about this time issued forth from their retreat, Rhode-Island, and accommodated most of the southern towns of the *Bay State*, with their zealous, extempore, declamatory exhortations. Every place where could be found religious dissention, offered a theatre for their pious exhibitions. Their religious sentiments corresponded with those of the New Lights, except the article of Baptism. Some doubts arose respecting precedency between faith and repentance, which occasioned a profane *wag* to observe, that the spiritual *Car* with the Baptists, always proceeded *tandem*; faith coming first, immediately followed by repentance; and behind all stood baptism. But our moto, or maxim here, is "*Ne lude cum sacris.*"

At any rate the Baptists went on very successfully, in their work of proselyting, and soon became a majority of the new society.

The meeting house, therefore, to become more central to its future occupants, was taken down and removed from its old scite, which was two miles west of the town's centre, to an elevated spot on the south bank of the stream, which has been described, as meandering through the whole town, about one mile south of the town's centre.

Here for the prent we leave them, and recur to other interesting occurrences during the period last examined.

The town, by their legal exactions, had prevented the establishing a new parish; but had not prevented the *formation* of a necleus, to which every thing disaffected would adhere. They had not prevented the planting a germe, that would rise up and over-shadow the whole land. (Liberty of conscience!)

In the heart of the first church and parish existed serious difficulties. Mr. Bridge's salary was inadequate to the genteel, or even comfortable support of a family; owing, as stated in town meeting, to the rise of agricultural produce, and other necessary articles of life. It was accordingly raised, in a few years after his settlement, from £ 260 old tenor, to £ 80 lawful money; but still failed of its object.

Consequently every little disaffected spirit enkindled, and burst into a puny flame.

Why, said they, should Mr. Bridge ask us any more, for his support?—He surely fares better than we. The more we give, the more he asks. The haughty, contemptuous spirit of his wife, we pray to have a small portion of gospel humility infused into it.

The value of money being depreciated in proportion, as every other article was enhanced the nominal sum of his salary was certainly much less than what was virtually promised; and rendered the acceptance of occasional contributions indispensable to the comfortable support of his family. This occasioned the sordid portion of his hearers to murmur forth the approbrious names, *mendicant*, and even *beggar*.

Having heard his enemies, let us now listen to the friends of the old gentleman. In other words take probably his real character.

His form was lofty, his port dignified, his features regular, his aspect mild, and pleasant; the tone of his voice soothing and consoling; in a word his manners were condescending, conciliating, and every way affable. True on the scale of genius, he ranked not so high as his predecessor, and sunk vastly below his successor, but as a steward, in the household of his Great Master, as a shepherd, to whom was entrusted a flock, he was always found faithful. Every individual of his beloved flock was often, and statedly visited, the *wants*, desires and affections of all patiently examined; and, so far as in his power, whether temporal or spiritual, relieved. Had they a superabundance of the good things of this life, of which they might impart to the less favored; he hesitated not to manifest his wants, nor even blushed at his poverty. But they were equally welcome in his house.

His doctrine was unequivocally Calvinistic, and excessively Trinitarian. To our modern theorists, disgustingly so. The only sermon, which he condescended to publish, so far as we can learn, was one delivered at the ordination of the Rev. Eliab Stone, a native of our town, ordained to the pastoral care of the second Church in Reading, May 20th, 1761, Boston, J. & F. J. Fleet. We extract a few sentences just to exhibit the orthodox feelings of the times.

"Who, without horror, indignation, and grief, can behold *infinite power* trampled upon by *impotent malice*, the *heart of God bleeding*, and the *sole Author* of life *expiring*." So much for the passion of our Saviour.

We shudderingly retreat from the awful scene, and cast an inquiring glance on the civil transactions of those days. We find for many years little interesting. Contests with other towns, respecting the support of paupers often occurred, and were zealously agitated.

In town meeting, May 11th, 1747, a committee was chosen to aid and assist Margaret Bellows in a prosecution of James Fenning in a case of fornication, at the Court of Q. Sessions, to be holden at Cambridge the second Tuesday of May, inst.

The crime was probably productive, and the action originated in ascertaining how the fruit should be supported or sustained, in plain language, what courts of justice denominate *bastardy*.

Fornication, however, was, in the golden age of New-England, considered more heinous, and shunned with greater horror, than adultery, at the present degenerated period. Adultery too, according to the Mosaic law ranked with murder of the first degree.

Let us now examine, what names or families were most conspicuous at the period we are considering. We have mentioned the names of B. and G. To these may be added those of Haven, Stone, and Hemenway; not to mention some others, then active and influential, but now, by emigration or death, nearly extinct.

The Haven family has greatly multiplied and flourished, and sent forth many of its shoots to other places.

Their most distinguished individual, was Joseph H. Esq. (*of Buckskin memory*) a man more noted for acuteness of penetration, quickness of ap-

prehension, and shrewdness of discernment in the affairs of common life, than for solidity of judgment. He was an officer in His Majesty's commission of the peace, and for many years an active and vigilant magistrate. In addition to his patrimony he acquired a handsome accession of real estate, by purchasing land at a liberal credit, being, by his foresight, fully assured that the natural rise of such property would amply remunerate him for all risk.

Alas! envy is the offspring of prosperity and as naturally follows, merit as the shadow, its substance. So thought the old gentleman, when he heard wispered around, the harsh words, dishonest, rogue, &c. But he virtually replied, none of these things move me, while I am enabled, by a conscientious exercise of the faculties, that Heaven has granted, to prepare a future support for my numerous posterity.

To one trait of his character, designating great foresight, and prudence, we are compelled to give unqualified approbation.

When he could advantageously dispose of a tract of land, bordering on the *king's highway*, he always reserved a broad and convenient avenue to the back part of the same lot.

He was of quite an amorous temperament, and withal exceedingly fond of power. In his own immediate family, and also the descendants, he strove to maintain patriarchal authority. Those relations, who unreservedly submitted to his decisions, were sure of a double portion of his favor, but wo to those unfortunate wights, who dared claim as a lawful inheritance from him, the right of determining for themselves.

His two sons were educated at the University in Cambridge, and the eldest, Samuel, was a distinguished minister of the Gospel in the first Congregational Church of Portsmouth, N. H., where he has left a numerous offspring, engaged in various honorable callings. These, if report may be credited, have raised, not depressed, the reputation of their forefathers.

John, his second & youngest son, was of an eccentric disposition, his orbit was quite eliptical. His powers were exceedingly versatile. It was all one with him, whether he were declaiming on affairs of state in the bar room of a tavern, or exhorting the volatile and mercurial to exhibit more gravity and seriousness on the floor of a conventicle, or giving a real Roscian grace, to some ludicrious anecdote at his own fireside. He emigrated, and resided in divers places, but left no male off-spring.

The daughters were all married and their descendants numerous, and most of them respectable, some of them highly so.

Cotemporary with the aforesaid Joseph, was Joseph H. of a different name. This latter with a reputation of half the talent, twice the benevolence, and four times the integrity of the former was always able in all cases of personal collision to defeat him in his purposes. Alas! he stole away the hearts of the people.

Oh ambition! how thorny thy pillow thou sleepest—not, thou reposest—not, thou restest.

Most of the other branches of the Haven family have been respected

rather for plain, good, honest sense, than for brilliant parts. Many of the name were elected to the office of deacon, and still more were pastors of churches. Where by their immovable, inflexible character, like seaboard lights, they directed and guided the weather beaten marriner on the ocean of life into the *Haven* of tranquility and spiritual repose.

The name of *Stone* was here, always respected, and without punning, carried with it solidity, and weight of character. Their posterity is still numerous in the place, though many have emigrated, and several distinguished themselves in the faculties of divinity and medicine.

The Hemenways are indemnified for lack of number among the distinguished, by the super-eminent merit of an individual. Rev. Doct. Moses H. settled at Wells, in Maine was "himself a host," he possessed that accumen of discrimination, patience of investigation, and soundness of judgment, which justly entitled him to be considered the Locke of New-England. He never magisterially obtruded his reasons on any one—all was gentle insinuation, humble query, or delicate inference.

Henceforward we find little to engage our attention or interest our feelings, till we come to the Boston proceedings on the Stamp Act. When in town meeting they voted to uphold the Bostonians, and adopted some spirited resolutions.

1. In 1773, the town instituted a suit against Joseph Butler, collector of taxes, for peculation, defalcation, or at any rate misappropriation of public moneys, by him received.

2d. They dearly learnt the benefit of sueing an insolvent debtor; and the greatest item in the concluding account was a heavy bill of costs.

February 11th, 1771, a vote of censure was passed in town-meeting against the practice of shooting at fowls set up as marks. On the principle of immoral tendency. Youths of a larger growth, would be led into a system of gambling, closely connected with every species of dissipation. The smaller would receive lessons of cruelty, which would make them neither good, virtuous, nor in any way valuable citizens, which would certainly not enforce Franklin's lesson. "Beware my son of taking away that life, thou cannot give." To this it was replied, a doctor, no less a naturalist, than Franklin, had boldly asserted, we "must eat or be eaten." If the taking of life were cruel, why were the beasts of the field, and the fowls of the air committed to man, in his fallen state? We might all of us unintentionally inflict unnecessary pain, and that, alone, could, by any perversion, be interpreted cruelty. While surrounded by a savage foe, 'twas necessary we should adopt their mode of fighting; and defeat them with their own weapons. Dissipation it was true might be encouraged at meeting for marksmen, trying their skill; but not more than by meetings for other purposes. Those, who were predisposed to dissipation, would indulge their favorite propensities, and ultimately establish immoral habits, whatever might be the object of the meetings. Gambling, it was said, was a delicate subject, and should be approached with caution, otherwise, we might stumble on iniquity in high places. Gambling was a very indefinite

term. He who purchased provisions for the market, risked a loss, and of course gambled. He who ventured his property on the ocean, encountered a great risk, and consequently deserved an adequate compensation, of course merchants venturing their all, in other words gambling, by good luck, became the richest, and most powerful class in society.

To this, in very calm, modest, and deliberate language, was made the following rejoinder.

We must all acknowledge gambling has pervaded every class of society. But is it less criminal, because all have partaken in the guilt? Dissipation too is every where nurtured and encouraged. But though unable to extirpate the *Bohon Upas*, which, if not repressed, at least restrained, might eventually desolate our country, still the lopping off and destroying even the humblest shoots, was laudable, and should by all means be encouraged.

Respecting sharp shooters, it was a melancholy reflexion, that they ever might be necessary; yet if we had confidence in Heaven, we might safely trust Divine Providence, for raising up characters, adequate to the occasion when their services would be required. Admitting, that it was our duty to be armed against contingencies, were those, whom we trusted to contend with the wiles and stratagems of a constantly moving enemy, to acquire skill and precision at hitting their mark, by firing at a fixed object?

Ye *Nimrods* of the present day, go to the forest, and reduce the savage lords thereof to civilization. If your hearts quake at such danger, rest satisfied with the useful honor of bringing down the soaring hawk, while looking with an evil eye on your poultry. Arrest the wily fox, when darting across the plain; circumvent him in his crafty doublings, and check the midnight marauder. But spare, oh! spare the unoffending bird, that has placed himself under your protection, not for brutal amusement, but to accommodate you with food and bedding.

The voice of nature, on this occasion, prevailed, and it was long considered disgraceful to shoot at a poor turkey *tied to a block*.

The meeting house was "coloured," (as expressed in the town records,) in 1776. On the 15th March 1773, a very patriotic Report was made in answer to a letter from Boston respecting British aggression and Colonial rights. This year Capt. Josiah Stone represented the town.

Subsequently in January 1774, Determinations, (as they are in the town records styled,) were adopted, highly honorable to the spirit and firmness of Framingham, in answer to a letter from the Town Clerk of Boston, enclosing a copy of Magna Charta, and also one of the Charter of the Colony.

This paper began with much warmth, and had great heat before the conclusion. Vide Appendix.

"Life and property are so nearly connected, that the former without the "latter, is only an empty name. Freemen are distinguished from slaves "only by having an entire right of disposing of every species of property," &c. &c. Vide Appendix.

The delegates to the Provincial Congress at Concord 1774, from this place were Capt. J. Stone, J. Haven, Esq. and Deacon Wm. Brown.

In the same year instructions were given to their Representative Capt. J. Stone, to oppose all aggressions on the Colonial Charter, and to adhere to the Constitutional Committee. At the same meeting with real *granite grit* they voted to purchase a *chest* of fire arms, and two field pieces, and appropriated the money for the expense.

On the memorable 19th of April 1775, when British mercenaries were ordered to fire on their unoffending, unresisting brethren; the roaring of fire-arms was, early in the day, heard at this place, and our lion-hearted yeomanry instantly flew to the field of action. Many of them were ploughing in their fields. The oxen were turned loose, and the plough left standing in its half finished furrow. The musket was shouldered, and each repaired according to previous arrangement to his respective standard. Two companies of minute men had been organized, under expectation of this emergency. Capt. Thomas Nixon and Capt. Simon Edgel were the commanding officers.

Nixon had been, previous to the Lexington and Concord fights, promoted to a Coloneley, *and was from some cause*, to us unknown, not their, certainly not cowardiced; for he was, on the Continental establishment, considered a brave and judicious officer, through the whole revolutionary war. Edgel therefore commanded both companies, and distinguished himself for zeal, intrepidity and firmness. His policy was to hang on the rear of the retreating enemy, and annoy them as occasion offered, with his sharp shooters. He always led, not pushed his men forward. When gently reproved by a friend present for too much exposing himself by marching in the middle of the road, his reply was truly Spartan. "It is proper, I should set an example; if I fall, I cannot die in a better cause."

The forces, we then encountered, were accurately disciplined and brave. By taking open order, and each rank, in rotation advancing to the front, and there halting, till all had passed before them, and then discharging their pieces, with great precision over their shoulders, produced a partial defence in the cloud of smoke, and by the incessant shower of bullets, rendered the near approach of unexperienced militia exceedingly rash, if not desperate. All, that the pursuers could do, with any chance of success, was to watch the angles of the road, and by a rapid approach, harrass them obliquely.

Owing to the ruggedness of the country, a flank guard was nearly useless, not being able to keep pace with the main body; which afforded the assailants great advantage, enabling them from every stone fence, on the rout, hedge and even ravine, to vex, gall, and in a few instances even discomfit these invaders of their country. These latter were sometimes thrown into momentary confusion; but by the experience, and calm, deliberate valor of the officers, the privates were instantly rallied, and perfect order restored.

What a pity, that men, so brave, should not have been engaged in a better cause. Vide Appendix.

If, however, we coolly and candidly consider the case, we find little reason to blame the instruments, by which we were injured, and threatened with the greatest of evils, slavery. Those mercinaries, whether from the Island or Continent, had sworn to support their sovereign and country; and

where such novelty was known, constitution. Now, whether their sovereign were an individual, or the *sovereign people*, made no difference. They had received a valuable consideration, for the cession of some rights, in the security of the remainder. A soldier, too, should remember, that, when ordered on public service, like Saul, commanded to exterminate the whole race of the Amalekites; sparing neither the crippled old man, stooping, and limping, and with faultering voice, and trembling limbs imploring a few days of grace, for repentance; nor the infant, unconscious of danger, smiling blessings, in the face of its assassin; he must consider obedience paramount to all other considerations.

Should soldiers and sailors wait till they were satisfied of the justice of the cause, in which they were engaged, without fighting in its defence; we should have neither army nor navy. Extend the principle to all classes of society, and civil authority ceases, anarchy would resume the sceptre, attended by her ministers of state, misrule, discord and confusion.

But our countrymen fought understandingly, in defence not so much, of human as of divine laws, and unalienable rights.

Yet the commanding officer was guilty of, wantonly and murderously, and without shadow of provocation, without waiting for obedience to his *order of dispersion*, firing on peaceable unresisting citizens. The burning of private dwelling houses, however barbarous, and cruel, could claim numerous precedents in warfare among civilized nations; being an expedient of necessity; intended to produce a diversion of the attention, and exertions of their pursuers, and if possible ensure their own escape.

From this time, to the Battle of Bunker Hill, nothing important here was perceptible, except the din of arms and bustling preparation for vigorous resistence, of, what then began to be considered, *foreign* aggression. No longer resounded the woodman's axe, and scarcely were heard the hammer and saw of the mechanic. Every amusement assumed a martial complexion, or rather livery. Even the plough-boy hurried through his daily task, that he might at evening, attend some boyish training; and learn the skillful use of the musket, to wheel and fire by plattoon, to retreat in order, and above all to charge furiously yet steadily on the approaching enemy.

At 16 years of age, each male youth was considered sufficiently invigorated to encounter the heats and colds of summer and winter, the hunger, and thirst, and fatigue, incident to long marches; and every privation attached to a camp life.

Consequently we, in this town, had many of that tender age who disputed the palm, with their seniors, of exposing their lives for the safety of their country, on the tented plains of Cambridge.

Some of these had the honor of falling on the sharply contested battle ground of Saratoga.

For a list of the killed and wounded of our citizens on the heights of Charlestown, alias Bunker Hill, we refer the interested to our Appendix.

July 1st, 1776, the town voted as a bounty to all who voluntarily entered the Continental service 7*l.* per man, and subsequently appointed a com-

mittee to provide suitable support for the families of the soldiers during their absence. They also in 1778, appropriated funds for the purchase of provisions and clothing for their quota of the Continental army.

In the autumn of 1775, the first Congregational Church unfortunately lost their beloved Pastor, Rev. M. Bridge, whose character we have already given. But as characters vary with varying times, we add a few floating observations.

Immediately after severing ourselves from the mother country, and assuming the regulation of our political affairs; speaking the same language, we adopted many of the distinctive party appellations, but somewhat varied in their application. Among others the terms Whig and Tory, were assumed, and thus applied.

Whig denoted an entire devotedness to the newly established government. But he, who under the influence of antiquated prejudice, lusted, not after the leeks and onions of Egypt, but the teas and sugars of *old* England, and believing that we were still in our minority and therefore should act wisely by remaining under the guardianship of the mother country, was stigmatized by the name of Tory.

Such feelings or sentiments were imputed to Mr. Bridge. Probably these aspersions, or rather detractions originated solely from his excessive modesty, sometimes degenerating into timidity, and casually expressed in doubts of our ultimate success in resisting British aggression. For though his statue was lofty, and well proportioned; his studious habits and sedentary occupation totally disqualified him, for throwing the gauntlet with the *stout hearts of this place*, for intrepidity, firmness and real energy.—We mean our Nixons, our Edgels, our Maynards, our Brewers, Hemenways, Buckminsters, and Frosts, with many others, a host raised up for the day of tribulation and trial.

When our Revolution commenced, praying was considered of no less importance in our army than profane swearing is at the present day. Each gospel minister, for a suitable compensation, proffered his services, and in rotation performed his duty. Mr. Bridge, say his enemies, learning that the dysentery prevailed in the camp, under various pretenses contrived to defer his services to the last extremity. We say last extremity, for so it proved to him; for though the epidemic had much subsided, he was revived by the disorder, and could in the language of Job, say, "for the thing, which I greatly feared, has come upon me, and that which I was afraid of, is come unto me."

Dysentery ended his life and usefulness, and gave great pain to all intimately acquainted with him, and little joy to his enemies.

In October 18th, 1779, the town voted "to build a monument over their late pastor, Mr. Bridge, and chose Deacon Wm. Brown, Josiah Stone, Esq. a committee to erect the same.

This resolution was never carried into effect, from some cause to us unknown, and not at present easy to be discovered, as all the committee have

long slept in dust around their venerable pastor. Possibly the public coffers being lined only with depreciated paper, and even that drawn forth to exhaustion, might have occasioned a delay, and eventually an entire neglect of the subject. Added to this the spirit of the times militated against ecclesiastical supremacy. Then it was not considered more honorable to loll over a soft cushion, than to sleep on the frozen ground, and rise betimes in defence of life, and what was vastly dearer, liberty. Cicero's adage, "*Arma cedant Togæ*," *was reversed.*

The church remained several years without an ordained minister, listening to several candidates. In 1777, the town concured with the church in their invitation of Mr. Laban Wheaton to become their gospel minister, and offered him £200 (so expressed in the town records) as encouragement, what was subsequently termed settlement, and £100, both in depreciated paper, for a salary, the first year, if he saw proper to remain with them. He very prudently declined the offer. Several feeble efforts were subsequently made to render their offer acceptable, but without succes. Finding a very doubtful chance of receiving even a meagre subsistence, while he ministered at the Altar; he turned his eyes on the *Bench*, and afterward became an able advocate, in our national counsels, a distinguished legislator.

The next year, 7th December, 1778, the town concurred with the church in their invitation of Mr. David Kellogg to become their pastor. All males over 21 years of age, were again permitted to vote, and Mr. K's majority was 123 to 14. But notwithstanding this unanimity, so inadequate to the comfortable support of a family was the offered salary, that although pleased with the society of the place, and particularly smitten with the fascinating brilliancy of a pair of intelligent black eyes, he was compelled to say *no*. He however consented to supply the Desk, if not considered a candidate for settlement. His personal appearance being prepossessing, his manners conciliatory, great exertions were made to retain and secure his services.

March 13th, 1780, being consulted by a committee, designated for that purpose, who stated more favorable offers. His reply, as reported in town meeting, was, that "he looked upon the work of the Gospel ministry, and the care of a Church, so arduous, that he durst not, at present, undertake it."

After much discussion, the terms were adjusted to mutual satisfaction; and Rev. David Kellogg was ordained on the second Wednesday of January, 1781.

His settlement, as stated in the town records, was £346, 13, 4, and his annual salary £100, to be paid in corn, at 3*s*. and rye at 4*s*. per bushel, or by commutation in money at the market price; also 20 cords of wood, and only half his salary, when by age or other infirmity, unable to supply the pulpit.

This was apparently, a very fair expedient to obviate the evils of a depreciated, and ever fluctuating medium of trade. "It is written, that man

shall not live by bread alone." A variety of meat is necessary for comfortable subsistence. Woollen, cotton, and linen fabrics, both in summer and winter, are quite convenient, but, in the account, not estimated. The necessity of tea, sugar, &c. to say nothing of wine and ardent spirits, in those *bean porrige times*, were entirely out of the question. The foregoing being either overlooked, or forgotten, more correctly unforeseen, the contract operated very unequally on the contracting parties. It was therefore found necessary to deviate from the letter, and consult the spirit of the contract, accordingly, sometimes more was paid, and sometimes less than the legal demand.

The Baptists had now become quite successful in proselyting the South part of the town. They therefore removed their meeting-house, one mile further South. Those who best succeeded in their pious labors, were ignorant itinerants, who from tinkers, coblers, and fiddlers were by sudden, powerful, yea, irresistible illumination, instantaneously converted, and metamorphosed into gospel preachers. The first object of these men was to discredit, and put down every regularly established church, by vehemently railing against all the prevailing denominations of christians. The flocks were assemblages of deluded worldlings, those, who styled themselves shepherds or pastors, were no other than ravenous wolves, who had either crawled under or climbed over the walls of the sheepfold, and were now devouring the *Lord's Heritage*. What were their calls to the solemn ministry? A fat living. "Our Call originated not from man; nor can the natural man understand the doctrines we preach. But we have the *Witness* within us, saying, wo unto you, if you preach not the Gospel." Our call we therefore consider, in distinction from theirs, an *internal Call*.

The ephemeral tribe, which first advanced, to change the hearts of the people in this place, quickly passed away; like the pioneers, or first settlers, of a savage country; and as science dawned on us, and human reason, and learning, and *common sense* ceased to be considered, in perfect hostility with Divine Grace, alias the Spirit of God; a more rational race was required to explain, and inculcate the decrees of Heaven.

He who first permanently remained here, was a man of good sense and some learning. But, like Commodore Trunion, this man was by a trumpet, stage horn, or some other vociferous instrument, rouzed from his morning slumbers, and immediately turned out, believing it the signal of the *Last Day*. If, however, we credit his report of the case, it was not the last, but the first day of his real, and true life, being the day, on which he was *born again*.

In person he was a true representative of Calvin, and wo to any hesitating *Servetus*, who dared question his dogmas. Always stern in his public appearance, every where austere, and sometimes even morose, the younger part of his hearers, not flock, for he was not regularly inducted into the office of shepherd: looked up to him with awe, not to say terror. For, said they, "he will forgive no one, no, not even himself.

However, he had, fortunately, or unfortunately, or some other *ately*; we

will say *innately, the disposition to convert* his best friends into his worst enemies. He therefore, consistently, or in perfect accordance with his nature quarrelled with one of the most substantial pillars of his society. The ground of the difficulty, if we have been correctly informed, was a misunderstanding respecting the pasturage of the venerable Pastor's horse and cows. The closely calculating divine claimed *the fruit* of the trees, because his cattle consumed the grass of the field. This claim was resisted. "Longa est injuria et multæ ambages." The *holder forth* no longer preached, he raved, he raged, he railed, he scolded, and pointed and hurled all his rockets at an individual. His hearers became dissatisfied. When they were assembled, that they might listen to the mild invitations of the gospel, they were disgusted with the bursting forth of a splenetic temper displayed in an angry countenance, and passionate language. Their sorrowful looks unequivocally told the speaker, that he might be more useful in some other place. He accordingly departed.

The next incumbent was, previously to his being set apart, a chosen vessel, *a fiddler*, and during his youth up to mature manhood, if we may credit his own testimony, a gay, and thoughtless character. His natural powers were respectable, more brilliant than solid. But his acquirements were pitiful. He was grossly ignorant, though excessively assuming. He was however so honest some years after, as to acknowledge, he had been unnecessarily re-baptised, and undertook the charge of a pedo-baptist society in a respectable village of Vermont.

We must now recur to other transactions in this place during the above period. We find little that might be considered as memoriable; few events worthy of being recorded. The sight of the soldier returned from his campaign in tattered uniform, lounging in the streets, his pocket lined with a certificate of faithful service, & honorable discharge, with other papers of equal value with their weight of *paper rags*, was nothing peculiar to this place.

The embarrassment, severe pressure on the poor, difficulty, nay, almost impossibility of collecting debts, in legal language, exacting the fulfillment of promises, was, probably greater here, than in most other towns. This town though poor, was always proud, and ambitious, or as she would prefer having it expressed, public spirited. She accordingly early involved her honor in legal promises, which she could not redeem, in debts which she could not cancel. Distress prevaded every class, and was every where *awfully visible*. The poor were the first to feel the crushing arm of the law, and the least able to parry its deadly stroke. The cow which yielded a pitiful support or meagred nourishment to twelve famished children, was driven away.

The trouble here began; but not here ended. Even the rich man's oxen rested from their labors, in the stall of the constable. For though he had much property and great possessions, he could procure no money. No current medium had yet been established. The universal cry was, "money was never so scarce in the world."

The precious metals had all disappeared, having either retired into the vaults

of the avaricious and oppressive, or been exported for the payment of foreign debts. To use sacred scripture, on which no draught should be made, on ordinary occasions, "The whole head was sick, and the whole heart faint." Eventually, *Dame Town* herself was complimented with a polite tap on the shoulder by the high sheriff, reminding her of the non-payment of her debt. She then deputed one of the most trusty, and shrewd of her family, to purchase *state securities*, and satisfy the execution. He, who performed this business deemed his own personal responsibility, and risk in the affair, worthy of liberal reimbursement, and graduated his demand accordingly. This was considered exorbitant, and payment refused. Another lawsuit was the consequence. The dispute, after much wrangling and severe reproaches from both sides, was finally adjusted, by a mutual reference, at a town meeting, convened for that purpose. Frost had received 1793, March 14th £ 55, 15*s*. 3*d*. The following was the tenor of the receipt on their final settlement,

Framingham, March 14th, 1793—Received of &c. dollars in full of all demands of every description whatever from the beginning of the world to this date. *Signed*, &c.

This was given by both parties.

At the time of Shays insurrection, this town acted with spirit. The young men, more than were wanted, volunteered under Lincoln, in the dead of Winter, to go forward, and convince the deluded insurgents of their folly. The older, more experienced, and wealthy remained, as a *corps de reserve ;* and a large body of them actually proceeded as far as Worcester, to enforce obedience to the goverment of their choice. There they learned the rebels were dispersed, without a chance of ever again rallying, and re-assembling. They therefore quietly returned to the calm delights of a winter's fireside.

When Washington put these states in defensive array against foreign threats and actual aggression, aided and supported by those veterans, Hamilton and Pickering. We had such confidence in the National Cabinet ; that our quota of minute men was without exertion procured by voluntary enlistment.

Subsequently, when our National Cabinet was swayed by variant, not to say discordant counsels, and all intercourse with restless, turbulent, revolutionary France, was interdicted, the measure was considered, not only judicious, but unavoidably necessary.

When the decree went forth, that all the land should be taxed, this town cheerfully submitted to the measure, though deeming it both impolitic, and injudicious. Impolitic, because British authorities only, on finance, appeared to have been consulted. The depressed state of our funds had not then been indulged with time enough for their being recruited. A jealousy too, by the land tax, was excited between the state authorities and the general government.

Gen. A. Hamilton's Oxford army was not a favorite here. This town furnished not an individual, either officer or private.

We will now glean a few less interesting transactions from the foregoing

period, and, as of most importance, first examine the concern manifested in the measures adopted for the instruction of youth, and the general promotion of knowledge.

In 1792, a number of liberal minded, and public spirited persons, were associated to establish an Academy.

This institution, as generally happens to novelties, at first flourished, then, depending solely on private patronage, languished till 1798, when the town having received much benefit from the establishment, in town-meeting, passed the following vote:—We will give the Academy one thousand dollars, or the interest thereof, provided the proprietors will ensure our exemption from maintaining a grammar school, and also what, they have insinuated, has been offered them, obtain a grant from the state legislature of half a township of Eastern land, as an unalienable, and consequently permanent support of the school. The institution was immediately after endowed with the aforesaid land, and incorporated. It has since flourished.

The good citizens here, convened in town meeting in 1793, finding nothing of greater consequence, for their attention, condescended to legislate on crows, squirrels, and black-birds. The scalps of old crows were received at 25 cts. each, and young ones at half price. Squirrels and black-birds each were entitled to the premium of ½ a cent. This bounty was, at the end of three years, discontinued under the plea, that the old crows were too cautious to be caught, the young ones too much secreted to be found, the cats only merited a reward for the destruction of squirrels, and the black-birds, surnamed red winged, though a railing accusation had been brought against them, were never found guilty of an overt act. In addition to this, it was strongly urged, that the rising generation would not be vastly edified in their respective callings, if encouraged here (savage-like) to range the woods in search of game, instead of vigorously plying the hammer and sledge, dexterously managing the mallet and chissel, with various other tools in their respective shops; and in the field skillfully guiding the plough and handling the hoe. These latter occupations, it was said, diligently attended to, produced habits of industry, economy, frugality, and honesty. These habits also, it was affirmed, necessarily ensured the comforts and conveniencies of life. Whereas, he, who in childhood, contracted an attachment to the angling rod, and fowling piece, always became indolent, often dissipated, sometimes grossly vicious, and from the nature of his employment, necessarily poor.

We will now cast an eye on that gloriously uncertain science, the Law; that vastly deep morrass whence, if any one be therein plunged, he can never come out otherwise than naked. To change our fare and borrow a metaphor from the vegetable kingdom, that Bohon Upas which creates a desert around; it permitted no plant to flourish, no not even to live in its neighborhood.

To ascend in the scale of our indignation, as practised in this country, it is the Turkish despot, who will suffer neither relation, nor friend around him, through fear of his sharing his own power and happiness.

In confirmation of the above, we ask if most offices of trust, honor, and profit are not rapidly falling in the hands of these engrossers? We would, furthermore, respectfully inquire, if the most weighty portion of our legislature should consist of lawyers, there would not be danger of their acts being so drafted, worded, or in some way ambiguously expressed, as to originate innumerable, and interminable suits We frankly acknowledge ourselves under no very affectionate obligations to lawyers, nor to their humble coadjutors, and obsequious friends, sheriffs, and bailiffs. By all we have said of Law, we mean Lawyers.

But we return from our discussive range, to what concerns this town only. Alas! where are those simple, honest, happy days, when every man was his own lawyer?

They existed here till 1791. Before which period of time, no lawyer litigator, correctly expressed, exciter of litigation, could find rest to his feet in Framingham. Then, alas! for we must sigh at our misfortunes, an adventurer arrived.

Pomposus Bombasticus settled here under favorable auspices. His public education was the best, which this country could, at the time afford; but come too late, to remove the impressions of early life; those rusticities contracted in the field, in the hovel, the stable, and the stye. Accordingly his manners, though affectedly polite, were grossly vulgar. Horace's "Testa quo semel imbuta odorem dire serva bit was in him forcibly illustrated. When he labored to ingratiate himself with a man of property and influence, you were irresistably reminded of the fable of the ass and the spaniel, where the ass observing the caresses bestowed by their master on the spaniel, essayed an imitation of the blandishments of the latter, and as a reward of his folly received a severe cudgelling.

But, accurately to deliniate his manners, we must first survey his person. This was, what geometricians would call an irregular figure or body. It was certainly lofty, and if we may be indulged in the language, which he delighted to honor, exceeded both in latitude and longitude, the medium stature. But, to use anitomical language, the different limbs, or members, were so loosely articulated, as ensured neither elasticity nor firmness. In plain language, he was clumsily made. His countenance, in early life, was dark, in his latter days, its hue was purple. The nose on most faces, is the most projecting feature; but in the present instance, dame nature, either being in a frolicsome mood, in trying one of her droll experiments, made his eyes the most promiment. They were, however, not exactly lobster-like. They more resembled the eyes of Cacus when strangled by Hercules. They were denominated by the brethren of the bar, the eyes of the county. They were accommodated with no muscles that enabled him to take laterial observations; and were calculated to see distant objects only and directly forward. Accordingly when he entered any apartment, crowded with his acquaintance and friends, in real tortoise style, sprawled and pawed, and scrambled forward, thrusting aside all intervening objects, whether father, or mother, maid or matron, till he had arrived at the object of his destination

Here he in rumbling low bass *announced* his *important* business. He was remarkably happy in his manner of telling a story. For he always prefaced it with a hearty horse-laugh; which was exceedingly kind, saving his hearers the pain of that convulsive, side bursting affection. However, some, undoubtedly from envy of his pleasing talent, laughed, not at his story, but at himself.

In his walks abroad, he was remarkably upright, so much as to give occasion to the wicked to say, he was stiff necked. Pedantic ignorant anatomists asserted, that his cervical and dorsal flexors, from long disuse, had become perfectly useless.

He sustained many honorable offices in this town, but never attained to the first. He gave satisfaction in most, and was undoubtedly useful. His little bark was, at last, wrecked on quicksands, he little dreamt of. All offices of honor, he eagerly sought: but to support them, those of profit were indispensable. Finding the affairs of state to yield him less than a subsistence he very piously turned his eyes on the *Gospel*. He courted and accepted the office of *tythingman*. Like good old David, he well might say, "the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up." For when he met the Saints, in worship of their Maker instead of adjoining in fervent aspirations for love and good will to all men, he peered through the church windows, in search of some belated and wayworn traveller, dilligently and perseveringly struggling to return to a dependant, destitute family. In great wrath he issued from the house of worship, and, indignantly assailed the peaceable, quiet and in every respect, unoffending traveller. He received his fee, and returned to his post, to react the farce.

This conduct gave dissatisfaction to all reflecting minds. The calm and deliberated queried as follows: Is it worshipping God, to repair to his courts not to hear the mild, peaceable precepts of a Redeemer; but to despoil and rob a fellow creature; not to hearken to a public confession of sins, with an earnest supplication for their remission; but to listen for the distant rumbling of wheels. Which, said they, causes most disturbance in a worshipping assembly, the peaceable passage of a carriage, or the wrathful rushing forth of a tything-man? They further more respectfully asked if all exclusive privileges were not expressly bared by our constitution; whether the rights of conscience were secured to every one. If so, why was not the deist equally protected by law, with the christian.

When he seized the embarrased culprit, his cry was not, "the bond, the bond;" but "the law, the law." His enemies said his meaning was "the *fine*, the *fine*," "the *fee*, the *fee*." But whatever his motives, the result to him was mournful, loss of popularity, loss of business, and the natural consequence, the acquirement of bad habits. "Othelo's occupation was gone," and with it departed every thing honourable, and every thing useful. He languished a few years, and sunk into the grave.

Having mourned over his foibles and frailties, let us now turn to his virtues. Here we find an exceedingly affectionate, and indulgent father; an

accommodating neighbor, and in the days of his prosperity quite a sociable companion. As a townsman public spirited, and highly useful.

He is gone, and we tread not on his ashes, lest our garments might be inflamed, by some lurking spark, beneath the embers.

"Nil de mortuis, nisi conum," ever be our motto.

When he descended into the tomb, those pieces of ordnance, which he introduced into the town, and for the exercise of which, he organized and disciplined one of the hardiest looking companies in the state, *whispered* a requiem to his departed spirit.

We have been thus particular in our account of the foregoing character, because, though his life be not exactly identified with the history of this place, yet, during his residence here, was very closely connected.

During the wane of the above luminary, two planets moving in similar orbits, arose in our hemisphere ; whom we will now describe under the names of Astutus and Buccinator.

Here we must assume a new motto and take for our guide and regulator " Nil de vivis, nisi caute."

Astutus presented you a figure of common statue, duly proportioned, and gracefully formed ; not however athletic, nor even muscular, rather approaching the emaciated. His complexion was what, on a female face, would be termed brunette. Regular beneath a dark and frowning brow, deeply seated, not sunken,shined, not blazed forth, two orbs of steady light. When the passions sleep, in other words when the countenance is not lighted up by some affection or emotion, you could discover only a deeply penetrating glance, a steadily scrutinizing look, that gave assurance of rough examination. But when anger agitated the system, when wrath snatched the sceptre from reason, you would see flashes of lightning, which if supported by physical force, would be truly terrible.

So much for his person. Now let us distantly and cautiously survey his manners ; for a close examination would be dangerous, he being very jealous of his rights and immunities.

Born and educated in a genteel family, he could not otherwise, than inherit those delicate deferences, and condescentions, which constitute politeness. But this part of his patrimony he very economically husbanded, making no expenditure, that could be avoided. Nature endowed him with mental powers rather above mediocrity ; and his education, in an extensive sense of the word, liberal. In wit too, his resources seemed inexhaustible. This wit also, was of that inoffensive pleasant kind, which is rather sportive, or playful, than pointedly satirical. In humour he abounded, humour chaste, and pure, seldom degenerating into buffoonry, never into obscenity.

What then, forbids our speaking in unqualified praise of this sociable, and highly entertaining character.

Alas ! said his enemies ; and, as in all courts of justice, both parties are heard ; aad we having attentively and patiently listened to his friends, his

enemies will now be indulged with a short hearing. Alas! said they, his vast garners of wheat are so encumbered with chaff, that, by a superficial observer, the grain is overlooked. The coruscations of his wit are sometimes obscured by dense clouds, and the gently flowing current of his humor is often shrouded with mists and foggs. What they intend, by this soaring figurative flight, we are at a loss to say unless they alude to his unbounded *lerity*.

His heart, said they, was of that inexorable cast, that, if once offended, he would never be reconciled. In the language of Shylock, he never caught an adversary on the hip, without striving to break all his bones, but was not satisfied with the pound of flesh, insisting, that to him belonged the whole carcase.

He has been accused of being a money-broker—more correctly a Jew's agent, to procure a market for unemployed capital, at an exorbitant rate of usury. In plain language, a gull catcher. In the spirit of real candor, we pronounce this a slanderous report, having no doubt of its being false and malicious. For we cannot believe he ever had credit sufficient for even so humiliating a commission.

A few days subsequent to his having been very actively engaged in striping a neighbor of his worldly substance, and despoiling him of his good name; we have been told an unsealed letter was found in the public Coffee House, couched in language nearly as follows:

Beloved fiend and agent,

Accept our hearty congratulation on the success of our last plot. Thou hast succeeded in accomplishing our wishes to admiration. Thou hast produced, in the town, placed under thy care, a perfect turmoil.—Neighbor is at variance with neighbor; and brother hates brother. All confidence is destroyed. "Heaven weeps and Hell laughs with exceeding great joy." There's not a spirit of real address and intelligence here, who is not importunately soliciting an embassy to thy region.

Few are there, however, even in Hell, in whom we place half the confidence, we repose in thy beloved self.

Go on and prosper. We wish thee *Devils* speed. Remember, the widow's sigh, and the orphan's tear will fatten thee. Our dear fiend! do not relent; remembering that should all animosities, contentions, and consequent distress cease, "thine occupation is gone;" thou might *possibly* become an honest man; which every infernal power forbid!

Remember, that, as our vast regions are peopled, by the depravity of man; so the lawyer's coffers are filled by his misfortunes and distress. Relent not. Compassion is only female weakness, childish folly.—Relent not. In due time, thou shalt be removed *hither*, and receive a just recompense. At present we cannot dispense with thine all important labors above.

Given at our August Palace, the Temple of Darkness and Delusion.

This 1st day of the 3d month of the 7000 year of our Reign.

SATAN.

As a specimen of of his pleading, from memory, we adduce the following. He was vindicating his profession against the charge of extortion, and oppression. God, said he, made one creature for the sustenance or support of another. "For the eagle, hawk, &c. he created smaller birds, without means of defence. For the spider, he produced an innumerable swarm of flies. But, for the amusement and support of the lawyer, he has provided a variety of fools."

Buccinator in person, resembled the preceding. His talents were respectable: and his education good, but in some points rather defective. His mind is probably better calculated for accurate discrimination, than profound research; in other words, has less of solidity than of accumen.

As a specimen of his forensic powers, take the following learned disquisition.

Gentlemen, we are all liable to error of judgment; but never more so, than in cases, where strong resemblance is blended with latent, yet striking difference. This hair, as you will consider it, which I hold out to your view, is not a real hair; 'tis only a half-hair, in other words, part of a hair, that has been split, or nicely divided from one end to the other. Which end, too, was originally inserted in the skin, is a moot point; but at a glance, discovered by the eye of the naturalist.

Lawyers, also, my highly respected, and much beloved brethren, of this profoundly learned Bar, you are thoroughly sensible, are considered, by the obtuse brain of the vulgar mass of society, as most virulently contending, and madly striving to put down each other. When, in reality, no litter of kittens, could play together more harmoniously. Then threats and parries with foils, every discerning eye would say, were intended to qualify them for taking under their charge the government of the world.

Another vile aspersion, permit me indignantly to repel. Lawyers are slanderously reported to be the disturbers of the peace of society; the abetters of every thing calculated to promote discord and confusion. If true it ought to be known. Who believeth it? If any, why such increased resort to the lawyer's office? Do not we go forward and assume all responsibility? Do not we kindly take away the bone of contention from the contending parties? We take all the property, and then there is peace, we seize all the munitions of war, and hostilities cease.

Now quitting law, as we hope forever, we will return and take divinity by the hand, and gently leading her, through those ways of religious wisdom, which are pronounced by Heaven, to be "ways of pleasantness, and whose paths are paths of peace," bring her down to the present day.

After settling the Rev. David, now Dr. Kellogg, the congregational church here for many years, went forward in a straight, plain course, of what they believed christian duty. All effervesent fermenting matter was voluntarily transfered to other laboratories, where refined spirits were produced, where alone the ardent was exhibited.

By the seceders, they were considered, to use their language, proceeding

Heavenward, only at a John trot pace; or rather like fishes, headed up stream, by a gentle motion of their fins, preserving themselves stationary. Under this impression, they thus addressed them.

"Ye need a spur to mend your lagging pace,"

and received in answer,

"Ye need a rein to check your furious race."

The Rev. pastor of the congregational church presented you a figure of common stature, well proportioned, and when young was considered handsome. His manners were frank, easy and graceful. He was endowed with vigorous intellect, combined with quickness of perception; which, probably occasioned his being rather a truant to the muses, during early life. The mention of an algebraic problem always occasioned a shrug of the shoulders, for he exceedingly disliked mathematical demonstration. He indulged no very warm affection for metaphysical subtleties; believing that the path of plain logical discussion, alone led to practical, useful truth. In his intercourse with his neighbors, and parish generally, he was affable and courteous. In his own house, he was remarkably hospitable, sociable, and every way polite.

In early life, his religious sentiments were moderately orthodox, and his manner, of explaining and inculcating them, was calm and deliberate, rather, than earnest, and impressive. In his latter days, he has become decidedly, strenuously, yea, flamingly Calvinistic.

The number of communicants in his church, at the time of his settling here, was small, now 1827, the number is about 160. The church remained without great audition of professors, till the incorporation of the Baptist society. Then an emulation was excited between the two sects; the leader of each striving, which should be most active, vigilent and diligent in his calling. The result was mutually beneficial.

In 1800, the Congregational society voted $700 to repair their meeting house, and after expending part of the money, the next year, in town meeting, reconsidered and nullified their past vote.

In 1801, the exertion to place a sepulchral remembrance over the grave of their late minister, M. B. was renewed. The following committee of good men, and true, were appointed to investigate the subject, and report at a future meeting:—

Maj. L. Buckminster, Col. D. Brewer, and Capt. S. Frost. What report the men made, if any, the town records say not.

After considerable altercation, the town settled on a scite for the location of a new meeting-house.

This was constructed in 1807, and formed in modern style, sixty-five feet square, with a spacious porch in front, whence ascended two flight of stairs, to the gallery, consisting of one tier only. This porch was surmounted by what, we know not how express, unless we denominate it a little frustrum of a small town. Above this, in due symetry, appeared a belfry, and lantern. Here, either taste was absent, in the original draught, or the

architect was fatigued and negligent, or the funds were exhausted. At any rate, the poor little spindle, alias steeple, though directed toward the Heavens, seemed to hesitate about half way. To speak technically we must say this was diminutively disproportionate to all its supporters beneath. A little of the Gothic was mingled, not united, with Grecian Architecture, in the structure. It, however, has been the receptacle of many penitential confessions, and, we hope, of much real religion.

Whatever may be the truth, in the language of Christian Divines a remarkable revival evidently followed its erection.

The Baptists had during the above period, so dwindled, as, by this time, to be nearly extinct. The old leaven, however, remained; there was a germ destined to sprout forth, and become a great tree.

All they wanted was an intelligent enterprising leader. This they found in their present pastor, Rev. C. Train; who justly claims the merit, of gently blowing the nearly extinguished embers into a moderate and steady flame; and constantly supplying it with proper fuel.

Though he did not actually raise the dead, yet he created a church. The seed, which he sowed, was exceedingly fruitful, in various parts of the town and its neighborhood. The gospel was literally preached to the poor; for a large proportion of his hearers, were too poor, to accommodate him with sustenance, or worldly support. It was necessary, therefore, that he should not only as pastor, feed his flock with the *Divine Word*, on the Lord's day; but, on the other days of the week, distributed to the lambs literary and moral instruction. In this way, he was enabled economically to eke out the meager support of an increasing family.

The house, which we have described as having been a great traveller, at the time of his ordination, January 30, 1811, and the societies incorporation in 1811, was repaired and finished. In this the Gospel continued to be preached till first January, 1827; when a very neat and commodious house constructed the preceding year, was dedicated. This was situate in the centre of this town. For another removal has been deemed necessary, in consequence of the extinction of the Baptist faith through every section of the town. The centre of the town was believed to be most accommodating to all within and without the township.

Old *Cassa Sancta* was pronounced too old and debilitated to bear another removal. Besides, she was of diminutive stature and of old fashioned, and ungenteel form.

The new house was located about 100 rods S. W. of the congregational meeting house. Its dimensions were 55 feet square with a spacious porch in front, and still further projecting a portico constructed on principles, neither Grecian nor Gothic. The pillars were crowded together on each side, for the sake of better prospect from the doors, entering the porch, leaving the centre of the portico unsupported. Raising your eyes to the spire above, you discover real architectural proportion, but, on the lantern and belfry beneath, such a load of ornament, as reminded you of the rough and furbe-

lows of good old queen Bess, and illy agree with the simplicity and neatness of the interior.

The Reverend gentleman was rather below the common stature, tho' his limbs were compactly united, and the contour of his form graceful. His mental powers were respectable, his literary acquirements considerable, and his manners conciliating—so much so, that he has been for severa years considered by a large majority of the freeholders of this place, as best qualified, to represent them in the General Court.

Last of all among the learned faculties comes the Doctor of Medicine, with formal face, and measured step, advancing to the bedside.

We have observed, that in former days, the business of this profession was left almost exclusively in the hands of old women, of one sex or the other.

In 1791 when we were first favoured with regular explanation, of statutes, and the extent and meaning of common law, or immemorial custom; we were also visited by an enterprising *adventurer*, figuratively speaking, a very fair *scion* from a celebrated medical stock. His form, like that of his brother of the law, was lofty and dignified; his speech however was neither pompous, nor boastful. His voice could be modulated to any strain. With the clown, he was rough, as the soil, he was intended to subdue.—With the tender maiden his voice softened, like the breath of spring, and every word was flattering. But although a great coquette he was a greater financier. The profits of the conversation were always considered.

When his risible muscles were excited into action, his eye-lids were so nearly closed as to leave only a small crevice on the window of the soul; through which his mind could peer forth, and examine every action and passion, of those around him; while his own emotions were shrouded, and inscrutable. Though only a stripling of nineteen, on his arrival here, yet possessing great shrewdness, he applied himself to the study of men rather than of books, and endeavored to convert every partiality, prejudice, foible, frailty, yea peculiarity of every kind, discoverable to his own profit. His maxim seemed, so far as possible, "be a man of business, and where leisure permitted, a man of speculation." Being a real "semper paratus," like good old Paul, he was "instant in season, and out of season." To use a little more scripture "where the carcase was, there the raven was also." In plain English, where business was, he was sure to be.—For the idol which he worshipped, was formed of gold and silver—the only access to this shrine he believed was through a throng of business.

He remained undisputed master of the field of medical practice more than thirty years. In 1822 an adventurer was introduced here, under respectable patronage; but has hitherto made little head way against his aged, and crafty opponent. His friends have injured him by excessive praise. However, his brethren of the faculty in the vicinity, say, that his modest, and unassuming manners, particularly in the sick room, will ultimately insure him success.

Having dispatched the three learned faculties, let us now take a glance at some miscellaneous matters.

As we are on the subject, we will attempt a few more sketches of eccentric biography.—That of Credulus Pius Ingeniosus.—This man possessed arge fund of natural, sound sense. His judgement on every subject, within the scope of his investigation, was always accurate. His imagination was lively and vigorous, his fancy excursive yet delicate. Granting these premises, it is not surprising, that he was a man of keen wit. But the qualities of his heart were the most striking. He feared God, even to superstition; and loved his neighbor, to excess. In confirmation of the latter quality, we might adduce numerous instances of favours confered, to his own injury. We could mention his refusal of compensation for loaned property, of various descriptions, his horses and oxen, labouring for neighbors, when their services were needed at home. Every action evinced his believing himself steward not lord of his heritage.

There is one infirmity to which good men, unconscious of guile themselves, and therefore illy qualified to detect it in others, are peculiarly subject. Credulity is always the fruit of an honest unsuspecting heart. Against this, sound sense, and repeated experience of fraud, are not even *cobweb* security. The subject now considered was peculiarly infected with this infirmity. It not only pervaded every transaction of this life; but extended to the world of spirits; that region of faith, and hope, where we all expect, ultimately to rest.

Satan, that crafty prime minister of our Maker and Judge, so particularly consulted, and with defference treated, in the case of the venerable Job; seemed in the present instance, to cherish a like grudge, pique or spite. Certain it is, our modern Job believed him very busy in his affairs. Many instances might be adduced of his officious interference. We will content ourselves with relating a few. Our subject, being a skilful mineralogist, discovered a rich vein of silver ore, this the *wicked one* changed into a worthless mass of pyrites. He harrassed him too in his agricultural experiments, through the agency of his imps, bewitching his farming utensils; and once audaciously, with both hands seized one of his cart wheels by the hub. Bnt the pious old man perfectly acquainted with the wiles of his persecutor, seized a huge *rock*, and by a nod intimating silence to the driver, he indignantly hurled it against the hub, and crushing the invisible fingers of old Satan compelled him to relinquish his hold, and permit the team to proceed, without further molestation. Profane, deistical wits, endeavor to account for the foregoing, on natural principles. They say, a small pebble was by accident, or design, insinuated between the hub and axle, which was crumbled by the stone.

Satan, however, is not easily diverted from any of his projects. Being thwarted in his mischievous attempts abroad he repaired to the shop of the pious man, who by trade was a blacksmith, and had constructed much ingenious machinery, moved by water, among which was a trip hammer.—This the *arch fiend* mounted astride, and alternately, entirely stopping, or rendering the motion irregular, and unaccountable.

By the advice of one deeply versed in magic, he constructed a brass bar-

relled gun, and by discharging a silver bullet, from this, at his grand adversary, instantly restored regularity of motion to his hammer, and was subsequently little annoyed. Yet with this infirmity few were more sensible, none more pious.

Togatus Pugnator enjoyed the advantages of a figure tall and gracefully turned muscular; but not corpulent; a pleasantness of countenance, generally indicating a benevolent heart; a suavity of speech, always conciliating, attended with general urbanity of manners. To these natural endowments, he added by education that confident easy address, no where more common, than among military officers.

On the bursting out of our revolutionary struggle he was a student of our University at Cambridge. He immediately quitted the bowers of the muses, threw a side his pen, took up the sword, and hastened to the field of action, in defense of his country's liberty, and other invaded rights.

After being distinguished as a brave and judicious officer through the war; at the return of peace, he settled in his native town; engaged in the honorable calling of farmer, and amused himself with narrating the adventures of his life, and depicting the wonderful scenes he had witnessed.

His manner of relating a story was peculiarly attractive, and interesting. Nothing was discoverable, in his countenance, or gestures, that indicated his expectation of saying any thing remarkably witty, humorous, or even ludicrous. On the contrary, he was exceedingly grave, and deliberate. A faint smile of complacency would occasionally illumine his brow, but nothing the most distantly approaching to laughter.

His manner of marking his pauses, and the emotions to be excited was likewise peculiar. A copious ejection from the mouth of tobacco juice was a preface modestly bespeaking attention. In proportion the length of the pause, either for breath, or reflection, afterwards was an effusion of the same juice; and when he had concluded, out came *quid* in *propria personæ*, for the present discharge from further service.

His manners, opportunities and talents ensured him the confidence and obtained him the first offices of trust and profit in the gift of his fellow citizens.

By way of contrast with the foregoing, in every point of character, we will now coarsely essay that of Pediculosus. What, the little, important, man lacked, by shortness of stature, was made up by loftiness of language. He cherished an, apparently insuperable, antipathy to labour, and the external application of water. The inevitable consequence was poverty and filth. The little man assumed the title and rank of Colonel. In consideration of a large host of *pediculi* always attached to his person, and constantly attending him, never deserting, either by day or night; this was readily conceded; and he was always addressed or saluted as Col. of the pediculi. Our very kind, and intelligent readers may indulge a curiosity, to ascertain the origin of these little warriors, closely attached to their commander, We exceedingly regret our inability to gratify them. All we can offer is

vague report. They are not a tribe of American savages, though much resembling them in their mode of warfare: being, really, a *creeping, crawling, skulking race.* Whether they emigrated hither from Europe with our pious ancestors, or were the original proprietors of the soil, is an ugly question, for the naturalist, or historian. If the latter, they resembled the Canaanites, "whom Israel could not drive out; but live with them, even unto this day."

Our little man had a little horse. This was not only proper for his comfort, and dignity, but also indispensible for the discharge of his duties, as a *field officer.* Of this spirited little steed, we may truly say, *like man, like horse.* His colour was sorrel with a white face. But his ribs were the most conspicuous parts of him, for they might be counted at one mile's distance. He patiently shared the fortunes of his master, browsing by day, under full assurance, of being turned loose at night, to forage on the field of the poor neighborhood. This created awful feuds, yea intermindable war. Oft was our little hero threatened, by some brawny, sun-burnt, daughter of Eve, with being hurled, headlong, horse and all, into the nearest stream, pond, or ditch. He like the crafty Hannibal, when entrapped, could always devise, on the emergency, an expedient to extricate himself from danger.

One instance is sufficiently illustrative of this. On a morning, succeeding a very extensive excursion, and great destruction by his faithful *Lousy Browser;* while contemplating the goodness of his Maker, as he rode thro' his neighborhood, in the production of every thing promotive of happiness to both man, and beast, without any exertions on the part of the creature, with a heart overflowing with gratitude, to find himself thus provided, his reverie was suddenly interrupted. His ear was arrested, by an indistinct, shrill, angry, threatening sound; and his eyes were instinctively raised to ascertain the cause. A female of lofty stature, and vigourous form, was rapidly approaching. The first impulse was flight. But the faithful courser had not so been trained. He could neither charge nor retreat. He had often maintained his post at the expense of an awful beating. He would not budge a step for our hero. Many old saws during this obstinacy occurred. Who can reason with an angry woman? Then reflecting on his past valorous deeds, chastisement seemed the watchword, uppermost in his chivalrous heart, at any rate severe rebuke. But to check and suppress his, an adage from Virgil immadiately crossed his brain.

"———————— nulum memorabile nomen.
Feominea in poena est, nec habet victoria laudem."

He was well acquainted with the feats of Virgil's Camilla, and the prowess of Butler's Trulla. Who would not fear the approach of such amazons?

By this time the angry figure, which had been vociferating destruction and death to our knight, had so nearly approached, that he could plainly distinguish the following opprobious epithets, from the Wapping and Billingsgate vocabulary: "Cursed horse!", "Lousy old rascal!"

Scarcely had Virgil's—"varium & mutabile semper Fœmina," flashed

consolation on his mind, ere his bridle was seized, and every bone, of both master and servant, threatened with immediate fracture.

Fortunately one of Soloman's best proverbs occured to his memory. "A soft answer turneth away wrath." He accordingly adorned his face with his most placid and graceful smiles and addressed the virago, in the following mild, deliberate strain.

Good woman admitting the statement, you make, is true, and in every particular correct, to what does it amount? Your garden last night was entirely destroyed, and not a plant, you say, remains. You further say, the destruction was the work of my pony. But will an injury inflicted on me, or on my horse, the perpetrator of this foul deed of darkness, restored your garden to its former state? Will it revive a single plant? If not won't it be better to trust my honor, and good feelings, to repay you your loss. Your fair face, certainly, exhibits nothing of the revengeful. Every feature indicates a mild, accommodating disposition. Why should you and I quarrel, when we gain nothing? She relented. He passed on without further molestation. Oh! how powerful the address of a man of good sense and information on the heart of a delicate woman? Alas! when relieved from one danger or difficulty, how quickly are we replunged! This was strikingly the case of our squire.

Though he could readily parry the *cart* and *tierce* of the venerable matron, whom he had reluctantly encountered, he found the gentle presure on the shoulder by a constable, more difficult to obviate.

The town instituted a suit against him; and the old maxim, sue a beggar, &c. was a thousand fold verrified. See Appendix (*p.*)

Note.—Early in the spring of 1795, a lodge of ancient York Masons was organized and constituted under the patronage and sanction of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts; denominated Middlesex Lodge, No. 20.

The labors of the institution, though for some short intervals rather languishing, have been productive of much harmony, good feeling, and information. As a cluster of bees, they had clung together, and have been enabled to exhibit much honey. For the first officers and members, see Appendix (*q.*)

In the year 1798, a family by the name of Wheeler removed from Lincoln, and settled here. Being enterprising, industrious, and persevering; although at first poor, they soon acquired property, respectability and influence; and have certainly contributed much to the growth and prosperity of the place.

The additions of buildings and increase of business in the centre of the town must be highly gratifying to all well wishers of our *improvement*.

Thirty years ago a barn-like meeting-house, designated the centre, in comparitive solitude, having no other associate, for nearly half a mile in every direction, than an old hatter's shop, of coeval date. Now that old ugly building is replaced by a modern fabric which we have described. The number of dwelling houses in this half mile radius, is now thirty-two, and the houses of entertainment two, large, and if we may believe travellers, quite accommodating, and highly respectable.

Three stores for vending dry goods and groceries, like Whales eat up the

small fish, and produce, by the cheapness of their goods, real, though unexpected distress.

Nine commodious buildings mostly two story, can accommodate about three times the number of mechanics.

Quitting the centre, and ranging toward the borders, we find great improvements there.

Proceeding from the S. West down the pleasant stream, that we have described, as irrigating, fertilizing and adorning this town, the eye is progressively greeted with a variety of manufacturing establishments, which at the distance of about eighty rods from the extremity, you fall in with Bigelow's Paper Mill. Here you are delighted with the neatness precision, and economy, with which every part of the business is transacted.

Very gently descending, and nearly in a right or direct line, one mile, we arrive at one of the best mill privileges in the place. Here is located the Middlesex Cotton Factory; not exactly in Framingham, the territory having been alienated, by jealousy, ambition, possibly fraud. The soil is now, however, desirous of returning to her first love.

One mile below we find another still more extensive paper manufactory called Shepherd's mills. Here is much water, but rather too nearly approaching the horizontal in its descent.

One mile still lower is another water privilege, but laboring under the inconveniences of the preceding, not being able to discharge water fast as received. Here is a saw, and grist mill. Floating down the stream, we pass two indifferent water privileges; but no improvement short of four miles when we arrive at a grist mill, with the three pairs of stones and a saw mill. Two miles below is found a large woollen factory, denominated the Saxon Factory, and enjoying one of the finest water privileges in this part of the country.

We have several other mills, on a smaller scale, on streams not perennial.

We have three large tanneries, which have enriched their owners, and amply rewarded their industry.

We have seven other trading houses, beside the three central stores, we have mentioned, distributed in the most populous sections of our borders.

The young women of this place were among the first in the state to engage in the Dunstable straw braid. This has enabled those in the humblest stations to trick themselves out in all the gewgaws of fashion; but injured them for the important duties of housewife, and rendered it impossible to obtain menial service, without long journeys and frequent discharges.

The number of inhabitants here for a long series of years was somewhat more than a thousand; but within a short period has risen to about two thousand five hundred. The increase has been principally in the centre, and the eastern village around the factory, denominated Saxonville; where great improvements have been made; particularly a very neat, and commodious Gothic church, raised for the worship of *One God*.

On the rivulet issuing from Natic Pond, more properly called *long lake* in

Indian tongue, is a Cotton Factory, surnamed Framingham. This has languished and by manufacturing empyrics been pronounced in a real consumptive state. But it has lately raised its head, and we hope will shortly spread forth its arms.

We now crave the indulgence of a word or two, on curiosities natural, and artificial.

The ramparts, like banks of the stream, we have so fondly dwelt on, through various parts of its course, are perfectly natural. As the Goose offered a form for the Dutch Indiaman, and the Swan a model for the English man-of-war; so such natural barriers, probably accommodated our primitive gineerswith these specimens of fortification.

The next curiosity may be considered partly natural, and partly artificial; a numerous tribe of contented *old maids*.

Lastly what must be considered wholly artificial, a large majority of the talent, property, and information of the town, firmly in the Unitarian faith, weekly listening to the inculations of Trinitarian doctrines.

Many of the first inhabitants of this town, have become extinct, and their places supplied by emigrants from other parts. But the descendants of the Eatons and Rices are numerous and respectable. The Belknaps, also, have from the beginning been active and intelligent.

We discover nothing peculiar in the manners and customs of this town, except an excess of that caution, characteristic of the Eastern States, which always evades a direct answer to any question.

In other places men often imagine, fancy, and even believe, sometimes think, and frequently venture to assert. Here no one hazards his veracity, by such expressions; but always *guesses*.

APPENDIX.

(*a.*) John viii. 5, 4. John v. 19, 20. Respecting the 7th verse of the 5th chapter of St. John's circular letter, we will merely say, waving the charge of *interpolation;* we would modestly inquire, before what tribunal, will three infinite Beings, or legally expressed Persons, each entitled to the control of a universe, deign to testify or bear witness, who is the Judge? If all power were committed to Christ, he could not inherently possess it.

(*b.*) Microscopic examination has exhibited to our astonished eye wonders, otherwise by us inconceivable. The *louse* and *flea* are probably not less annoyed by vermin, than ourselves.

(*c.*) Antiquarians assure us, this was the temple of Belus in Babylon, on the apex of which was placed his Colossal statue formed entirely of gold; before which Nebuchadnezzar ordered all nations, tongues, &c. to fall down and worship.

(*d.*) Both virtue and vice are multiplied by a condensation of population. But great cities, in the language of Jefferson, are great sores.

(*e.*) Corn in Europe designates every species of farrinaceous grain, used in the formation of bread.

(*f.*) Of old women we ought, on all occasions, to speak well. They, from experience, better than all others, know our pains, and better know the remedy. Having themselves severely suffered, sympathy will not permit them to be otherwise, than compassionate Others may coolly and skilfully advise, they affectionately attend, and apply.

(*h.*) Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, says Holy Writ. But in the present degenerate days, multitudes are ready to perish, because they take too much medicine.

Drunkenness was cured by drowning a snake in spirit, and drinking the broth.

Consumption was cured, by digging up a dead relative, who had perished with the same disorder; the burning, and reducing to ashes his ulcerated lungs, and infusing those in some mild liquid, and to be daily taken while fasting.

(*i.*) List of those, who were distinguished in the Lexington and Concord skirmish.

We said the Nixons were not there, which was incorrect. The fact is they headed the first Regiment of Massachusetts Militia, the first, as Col. and Thomas, the most energetic character, as Lt. Col. marched from this neighborhood; and were no less distinguished there than in subsequent ac-

tions, particularly when "Nixon's Brigade," to quote from the page of history, "had the post of honor assigned it."

Daniel Hemenway was the only man seriously wounded in the above skirmish.

In addition to the foregoing, Noah Eaton, and Ebenezer Hemenway were distinguished. The former by taking a prisoner alive with all his accoutrements, not forgetting a *load d musket*. The latter by killing, and despoiling an enemy.

Lawson Buckminster, we have been informed, was in the front of the battle. If not, we are positive he must, at the time have been lame.

Many others were there, who faithfully performed their duty, but time has so blurred their names, that we cannot now read them.

List of those from this town, who were distinguished at the *Battle of Bunker Hill*.

The two Nixons, John and Thomas, commanding the first Regiment of Massachusetts Militia, the first undoubtedly brave, the second, always considered equally brave, and generally thought to be more prudent, were there, and if not killed, not their fault.

They were stationed on the left flank of the temporary battery, defended by nothing, but rail fence and hay, and constantly raked by a British man-of-war.

This station, therefore, being the most dangerous, was of course the post of honor.

John was sorely wounded, and, in consideration of his experience and service, was commissioned, as a general officer in the U. States service.

His Brigade had the post of honor on the plains of Saratoga, and were much galled; his brother, however, was the most exposed, and had a horse shot under him, without being in the least alarmed.

Lieut. shortly after Capt. Jonathan Maynard; also two of his brothers, subsequently promoted, were distinguished; the two latter severely wounded. William carrying a bullet in his hip to his grave.

Corman Fairbanks was the only one killed within the ramparts. The wounded were the two Maynards, Henry Gates, Moses Learned, Benjamin Clark, Charles Daugherty, slightly, but his coat dreadfully perforated with bullets. Moses Pike was killed by a cannon ball on the retreat. The others who retreated *alba parma*, were Capt. Thomas Drury, Joseph Mixer, Ensign, Joseph Nichols, Noah Eager, John Trowbridge, Abijah Abbot, Amos Gates, Windsor Stone, J. Nichols, 2d. Needham Maynard, Joshua Fairbanks, Blayney Grusha, Saml. Ardway, Brigham Eaton, Luther Eaton, Josiah Wait, Elisha Frost, Cornelius Claflin, himself not wounded, but his musket rendered unfit for service, by a bullet.

Lieut. Cols. Wm. Buckminster, and David Brewer, though born and raised here, hailed from different places. They were on the hill, and the first severely wounded; and the second, if not, not because he did not show his teeth to the enemy.

In the Continental line, where men took their lives in their hands, firmly

and inflexibly resolved to lay them on the altar of death, if required, but certainly to seize a niche in the temple of liberty, we find the following names :—

	SUBALTERNS AND LIEUTENANTS.
Gen. John Nixon,	
Col. Thomas Nixon,	
Capt. Jona. Maynard,	John Maynard,
Do. Wm. Maynard,	Charles Daugherty,
Do. Samuel Frost,	Micah Daugherty,
Do. Peter Clayes,	Luther Trowbridge,
Do. Elijah Clayes.	Saml. Fairbanks.

NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND PRIVATES.

Joseph Howe,	Thos. Nixon, Jr.
Isaac Howe,	Joseph Nixon,
Simon Howe,	David Drury,
Jona. Gleason,	John Park,
J. Hemenway,	Thaddeus Hemenway,
John Stacy,	Abel Benson,
Nathl. Pratt,	Cato Hart,
Ephraim Pratt,	Ephraim Newton.
John Pratt,	

(*m*) David Haven, belonging to Nixon's Brigade, was killed in the advanced guard, having volunteered to go forward and provoke the enemy to action, on the most bloody day, we experienced at Saratoga. John Holbrook died in the Hospital. Josiah Temple carried to his grave, an honorable token of his patriotism, a bullet, received at Cambridge.

(*n.*) Capt. Samuel Frost is differently represented by the different feelings and views of those, who depict his character. All accord him handsome talents ; but some would strip him of his honesty. We individually have discovered nothing impugning his integrity. The first members of the Masonic Lodge, were as follows :—Jonathan Maynard, Grand Master ; Peter Clayes, Senior Warden ; Barzilla Banister, Jr. Warden. Members, Thos. Nixon ; Samuel Frost ; Jno. Nixon ; Aaron Brown ; Gilbert Marshall, Tyler ; Benj. Champney ; Thos. Bucklin ; Winslow Corbet ; Saml. Haven.

(*p.*) *Framingham, July 22d*, 1788.

SIR—You will please to put one of the largest notes against Simon Pratt in suit, as soon as convenient ; and attach the horse he has in possession. And also to direct one of the collectors, who has taxes against him, to take his body.

JONA. HALE,
SAML. FROST,
JOHN FISK,
JOHN EAMES,
} *Selectmen.*

M. BENT, JR. *Treasurer.*

(*l.*) *Framingham, February, ye 13th,* 1775.

A RETURN OF CAPT. NIXON'S COMPANY OF MINUTE MEN.

Non-commissioned	Thomas Nixon, Capt.	Corporals and Musicians.
Sergts. Jno. Gleason, Do. Shubel Seaver, Do. Jona. Hill, Do. Thos. Buckminster, Fifers, Thos. Nixon, jr.	Micah Gleason, 1st Lieut. Jno. Eames 2d do. Saml. Gleason, Ensign, Ebenezer Hemenway, Clerk.	Corporals, Alpheus Nichols. Do. Gideon Rider, Do. Asa Nurse, Do. Eben. Winch, Isaac Hemenway, drummer.

PRIVATES.

Jona. Adams,	Moses Eames,	Needham Maynard
Badger Brown,	Nathaniel Eames,	Joseph Nichols, 3d.
Jno. Bent,	Jno. Farrar,	Fortunate Nichols,
Ezra Belcher,	Josh. Farrar,	Jno Nurse,
Daniel Bridge,	Moses Fish,	David Rice, Jr.
Joseph Belcher,	William Farrar,	Josh. Sever,
Andrew Brown,	Jacob Fairbanks,	Samuel Stone, jr..
Jos. Brown,	Jona. Hemenway,	Josh. Tower,
Peter Clayes,	Jno. Hemenway,	Jona. Temple,
Abel Childs,	Nathan Hemenway,	Josiah Wait,
Charles Daugherty,	Parley Howe,	David Waight,
Micah Daugherty,	Francis Howe,	Asarih. Walker,
Elisha Drury,	Joseph Howe, jr.	Joseph Winch,
Aaron Eames,	Simon Howe,	Bara. Waight.
Ebenezer Eames,	Saml. Jones,	

Captain 1—Lieuts. 1—Ensign 2—Clerk 1—Sergeants 4—Corporals 4—Drummers and Fifers 2—Privates 45—Total, Officers included 60.

SIR—The above is a true statement of my Company as they now stand.

I am Sir, your Humble Servant,

THOMAS NIXON.

Col. BALLARD, in Sherborn.

A Muster Roll of Simon Egels' Company is no where to be found. Time the consumer of all things, has destroyed it.

March 1773.—At an adjourned meeting from the 1st to the 13th March 1773. The Committee chosen to take into consideration, the subject of British aggressions, consisting of Deacon William Brown, Major Jno. Farrar, Jos. Buckminster, Esq. Dr. Eben. Hemenway, Joseph Nichols, Josiah Stone, and Mr. Eben. Marshall, presented the following Report :—

That whereas late Parliamentary measures have been exercised towards this province, in manner so irreconcileable, with what we have till within these few years past felt; it seems really necessary, that not only the legislative, but constituent part of the Province, stand forth in defence of their liberties; and to all, who regularly, in either capacity, make this noble stand, we hold ourselves obliged.—That our forefathers left their native country and came over into this then vast howling wilderness, wading through such troubles and difficulties, as could only be felt, never properly expressed, with just expectation, that not only themselves, but their posterity, should enjoy their privileges, both Religious and Civil, we think none can deny. That a charter has been given to this Province, whereby we are entitled to all the privileges of native free born Sons of England, none will dispute. That Life, Liberty and Property, with the whole right of disposal is in our said charter, we think equally plain. Then if we are

hildren, both sacred History, and our Constitution make us free. For the only barrier between Freemen and Slaves is a whole right of Disposal of Property. From whence it appears, that so far, as any people are deprived of this privilege, just so far, they are entered into a state of Slavery.

That we have the *Honor* and *Faith* of a British Protestant Crowned Head to defend these Provinces, is equally true.

That, whoever cuts the cords, that cement the Colonies to the British Crown, are enemies to both, is a *Fact*, that does not admit of a dispute.

That as a Province we have forfeited our privileges none ever *pretended*. That they are invaded, who can with justice deny.—Then the British Parliament assume the power of legislation for the Colonies, without their consent. And exert that power in raising a revenue, and applying it to purposes, repugnant to our privileges, as a free people; by making our principal officers at the head of our legislative and executive affairs so dependent on the Crown, that the usual balance of Government is in danger of being entirely destroyed.

And further to demonstrate, are invaded. We need only to look into a late act of Parliament, Entitled an act the better to preserve his Majesty's Dock Yards, &c. and that the Colonies are included in this act. Witness the late Honorable Committee sent to Rhode Island.

Now if our inhabitants may be seized, and denied their privilege of being judged by their own Peers, in the vicinity to which they belong, but on a suspicion of their being guilty of said act, may be carried to England, and there to be tried for life, *guilty or not*; Oh!' we had need be possessed of estates much greater, than are generally found in America, not to be reduced to perfect beggary and ruin.

And why but to protect these ministerial measures, are fleets and armies sent and kept among us in time of profound peace?

And whether these measures are not oppressive, let the English Annals determine, if they be, he that runs, may read the natural operation. From all which it appears our absolute duty to defend in every constitutional measure, our dear privileges purchased with so much blood and treasure, *let* us prudently endeavour to preserve our character, as Freemen, and not lose that of a Good and Loyal Subject, let us jointly Labour after (and Heaven grant we may obtain) that magnanimity of Soul; by which we may be enabled to resent injuries, and let the world know, that we are not Governed by *Fude* and Faction.

Per Order of the Committee,

WM. BROWN.

At a Town Meeting 25th January, 1774, the Town unanimously entered into the following determination.

Life and Property, are so nearly connected, that the former without the latter is but an empty sound. It is for the preservation of those that we choose to be in a Political State, under such Rules and Regulations, which justly attended to, serve to preserve the State in peace and Good Order. For this very reason are all men placed in, and vested with Authority. So

happy is our Constitution, that the Ruler and the Ruled, when acting in their Proper Spheres, are under the Glorious Directory, THE ADVANTAGE OF THE WHOLE. Nor is it in the power of any in Authority, in what capacity soever, to take from the people their property without their consent.—Then after some observations on a statute of Edward the first, and the tea act, they thus proceed.—We then Resolve, that we, ourselves, or any for or under us, will not buy any teas, subject to a duty, nor knowingly trade with any Merchant, or Country Trader that deals in that detestable commodity. And since such means and methods are used to destroy our Privileges, which were purchased by the dearest Blood of our ancestors.—Those that stand foremost a proper defence of our privileges, shall have our greatest regards. And if any shall be so regardless of our political preservation, and that of posterity, as to endeavour to counteract our Determination, we will treat them in that manner their conduct Deserves.

List of those, who at the time of their entering some College or University were the sons of citizens of Framingham.

Saml. Haven, S. T. D. Edinburgh and Cambridge, 1749,
Jason Haven, Pastor at Dedham, do. 1754.
Nahum Marshall do. 1753.
Moses Hemenway, Cambridge, D. D. first among the greatest.
John Haven, all things to all men, Cambridge, 1757.
Eliab Stone, Pastor in Reading, do 1758.
Jacob Haven, Pastor at Croyden, Vt. 1785.
Jonathan Maynard, 1775, Mr. 1781, Cambridge.
Joseph Bixby, 1791, a real Comet.
Daniel Stone, Cambridge, 1797, Physician, Sharon, M. D. Camb.
Micah Stone, Wmstown, date unknown. Comet.
Wm. Ballard, Cambridge, 1799, Comet.
John Brewer, Cambridge, 1804.
Jones Buckminster, do.
John Fish, Dartmouth, date unknown.
Moses Fisk, do. do.
Wm. Eaton, Somewhere.
Jno. L. Parkhurst, Brown University, R. I.
Jeremy Parkhurst, Yale, N. Haven, Physician in Georgia.
Joseph Bennet, Cambridge, 1818, Pastor, Woburn.
Jona. Angier, Cambridge, 1821, Preceptor, Medford.
Edward Frost, Cambridge, 1822, Physician,
Sumner S. Wheeler, Cambridge, 1825, Merchant.
Joshua T. Eaton, unknown.

The following is a list of those who were educated at some University previous to their settling here.

David Kellogg, D. D. Dartmouth, N. H.

Eli Bullard, Yale College, Connecticut.
Josiah Adams, Cambridge, 1801, Juris Consultus.
James Bowers, 1794, Cambridge, Clerk.
Charles Train, Cambridge, 1805, B. Pastor.
Simon Whitney, M. D. Cambridge, 1818.

NAMES OF THE PRECEPTORS OF THE ACADEMY.

Hawley and Park, 2 years, commencing in 1792—Park—Kendall 1—Bullard 2—Stone 1—Emerson 1—Lane 1—Weed 5—Brewer 2—Tower. Torrey H. Bullard, and Brewer, one year—Train 2—Ballard 1—Cotton 1—Morey 2—Fisher 1—Prescott 1—Otis 1—Noyes 1—Whiting 2—Johnson 1—Stuart 1—Cheney 1—Pike 3—Folsom 2.

ANNO DOMINI, 1771.

Under this Monument lies Joseph Buckminster, Esq. aged 81 years. One worthy in his day. His mother; two wives, and several of his family, to the number of 18, by name, Sarah the Virtuous, Consort of the present Joseph Buckminster, Esq. T. R.

Memento
mori.
Here Lies Buried
The Body of
The HON^bl.
EDWARD
GODARD ESQ.
Who Exchanged
This Life For
That of The Blessed
Feb^y. y^e. 9^th A. D.
1754. Aged 78
years 10 M^s & 4 Days
"Blesed are y^e. Dead
"Y^t. Die in y^e. Lord"

Mrs. Mary Mellen, senior,
Aged 70, Died 1709.

A pious matron of unspotted life,
A tender mother and obedient wife,
Like to the Hebrew midwife she obtained.
A lasting fame, which ever shall remain.

ERRATA.

Page	Line		
9	18	For	previous read pervious
14	17	"	amophous read amorphous
19	23	"	tardy read tawdry
20	3	"	herd read horse
20	10	"	there read these
20	11	"	ornamented read ornamental
21	8	"	Cred, read Credo,
22	23	"	unflooded read flooded
26	14	"	oversume read resume
27	13	"	Wells read well
32	19	"	Meads read Medeas
33	24	"	majicians read magicians
37	20	"	prent read present
38	11	"	loss read less
39	2		from the bottom after restest insert the word not
42	10	For	their read there
44	34	"	revived read seized
45	8	"	Fogae read Togae."
49	38	"	fare read figure
52	5	"	Conum read bonum
52	26	"	rough read thorough
54	23	"	Then threats read Their thrusts
60	35	"	his read this
61	10	"	restored read restore
61	29	"	had read have
63	5	"	ramparts read rampart
63	9	"	omit the word these
63	14	"	inculations read inculcations

☞ We mention as an apology for any thing erroneously printed, that the publisher died while the work was in press.

LE My 11

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